

Briefing

A Research Report

North East Migration and Challenges in National Capital Cities

2011

North East Support Centre & Helpline

(An Initiative of All India Christian Council and Operation Mercy India Foundation to End Racial
Discrimination, sexual violence and human trafficking)

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ABBREVIATION

AICC	: All India Christian Council
ASEAN	: Association of Southeastern Asian Nations
BFSI	: Banking Financial Services and Insurance
BPO	: Business Process Outsourcing
CCTV	: Closed-Circuit Television
CNN IBN	: Cable News Network India Broadcast News
DoNEr	: Development of North Eastern Region
FIR	: First Information Report
HCL	: Hindustan Computer Limited
IIT	: Indian Institute of Technology
IPC	: Indian Penal Code
MP	: Member of Parliament
NCR	: National Capital Region
NDTV	: New Delhi Television
NE	: North East
NESC&H	: North East Support Centre & Helpline
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
NIIT	: National Institute of Information Technology
Ph. D.	: Doctorate of Philosophy
SC	: Scheduled Caste
ST	: Scheduled Tribe

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PREFACE

International jurisprudence is still evolving on issues of Xenophobia and mass migration, and the violence that may precede, accompany or follow such phenomenon. Despite three quarters of a century after Hitler branded an entire race as either sub human or enemy of the State, Europe is still grappling with neo Nazism, mass guilt and the prosecution of those guilty of crimes of mass hate. The emerging situation after the bombing of the World Trade Towers in New York, and its final denouement in the killing of Al Qaeda founder Osama Bin Laden in Abbotabad, Pakistan in May 2011, a fresh wave of Islamophobia and issues of mass inflow of refugees from north Africa following the Jasmine Revolutions in those parts of the world, have seen Europe re-structure the Border check-posts it had demolished in the first flush of the birth of the European Union. Countries in Africa and specially that multicultural nation of South Africa are grappling with issues of xenophobia and migration on the one hand, and racial violence and equity on the other. International courts of Criminal Justice and United Nations apparatus dealing with refugees, racism, religious freedom and Human Rights are trying to see patterns and theories in individual national records of ethnic violence and the persecution of minorities to be eventually able to outlaw them.

India as a multicultural and still new nation, so to speak, has more than its share of diversity and complexity, and certainly much more than it deserves of xenophobia, racial imaging and majoritarianism. The situation of the people of the northern states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the ultra modern metropolis of Mumbai, the financial capital of India, has seen brutal violence of late. Xenophobia and migration accompanied the Partition of India and Pakistan, and then again the birth of Bangladesh. For want of Truth and Reconciliation commissions, we will never know how many were killed in 1947. Guess figures go up to half a million each dead on both sides in the almost mass transfer of religious minorities. The birth of Bangladesh saw a migration of up to 30 million, by some estimates, and the massacre of an untold number.

The situation in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, as it is formally known, is the most peculiar. The city on the banks of the River Yamuna is almost at the crossroads of civilizations, and has seen scholars, soldiers and thieves from most ancient cultures criss-cross its roads and shelter in its caravanserais. Its original population of Jats and Gujars and the former untouchables would not be more than mere 20 percent at any given time. The Turkish rulers and their Abyssinian slaves in the thirteenth century Sultanates, the migrant clerks of the British Emprise, the Punjabi Hindu refugees of 1947, the Nepalese and Garhwali migrants in the Fifties and Sixties, gave way to Muslim Bengalis from Bangladesh and West Bengal after the 1971 war. The Bengalis certainly have been subject of xenophobic response, often sponsored by the Government as during the period when the Bharatiya Janata party was in power at the turn of the century. There even have been smaller waves of refugees from Afghanistan – Sikh, Muslim and Hindu -- each given a different treatment.

The migrants from the North Eastern States stand out as the most recent, and the most complex. To begin with is their ethnicity, and in some cases, their religion. The people are of Mongoloid racial stock, and therefore very different visually from the rest of the citizenry. Some of them are Christians in a city where the faith is a micro minority. Most are educated and seeking higher education, and many are young single women, a rare phenomenon in a patriarchal society of north India. These young women are educated and “modern” in their often western attire, or even in their native cultural dress. In these parameters they differ from

the working women from north Orissa and Jharkhand who are mostly domestic workers, and subject to a different sort of exploitation.

The men and women from the North East, especially the ones from Manipur and Mizoram, are subject to racial discrimination and violence, often leading to severe beatings, and on some occasions, rape or death. The North East Support Centre and Helpline, set up by the All India Christian Council, in the first decade of the new century in the wake of a rash of violent incidents, has since its inception documented this infamous racial profiling and violence. The data has shocked civil society, and has led to mass protests and reams of newspaper and Television coverage. We hope it will also lead to legislation against Xenophobia and to the opening of more educational and employment opportunities in the North east of the country to minimize this mass movement of young people in search of a better life, or escaping poverty, violence, and a dismal future. These young people deserve better, for they can make a useful contribution to the development of India as a modern, cosmopolitan nature. The research documented here will be useful for Civil Society, Policy maker and the Administration.

John Dayal
Member, National Integration Council, Government of India
Secretary General, All India Christian Council

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Recent crimes against North East girls in Delhi compelled North East Support Centre & Helpline (NESC&H) to launch this pilot research project. It was undertaken by NESC&H sponsored by the All India Christian Council (AICC). Once again the plight faced by the people of North East India in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) has come into the limelight after the gruesome kidnap and gangrape of a 30 year old Mizo girl at Dhaula Kuan in a moving vehicle at midnight of November 23, 2010. In a segregated society likes ours in India, unless pressure is mounted on law enforcement agencies, justice will continue to be unheard and denied to communities like North Easterners and oppressed Dalits.

Delhi has become a capital of rape and unsafe for women, particularly those working at night. Unfortunately, the law enforcement agencies were in a reactive mode all these years and, if they continue in the same mode, the Dhaula Kuan case – which was not the first -- will not be the last. A proactive, preventative paradigm shift is the need of the hour. Steps must be taken and preventive measures implemented like installing night police patrols in unsafe areas, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, and ordering Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industries to follow safety guidelines. These steps should not be forgotten after a week or a month but should be monitored throughout the year in a proactive, preventative approach.

But the unanswered question is why have people from North East India, particularly girls and women, become vulnerable for sexual abuse in the national capital city? It is important to look at some realities of North East Indian migration into mega cities.

Until early 2000, most of the people who came to cities like Delhi worked in central government jobs and pursued higher studies. A larger number of people began migrating after 2000 and increased in last two or three years mainly in pursuit of higher studies and a hunt for employment opportunities.

The duration of stay in mega cities differs from community to community. Most of the student community come for four to five years and very few return home at completion of studies while most manage to get jobs continue on or migrate to other cities. Those who work in government jobs and the private sector stay until they retire and return to their native state. But this phenomenon is likely to change in the days ahead due to the unrest and socio-political situation in the home states. Next it is important to understand what pushes and pulls North Easterners to mega cities and challenges they face.

1.0. NATURE OF PROBLEM

1.1. North East Indian Migration to Mega Cities of India

There has been large population of migration from North East India to other mega cities of India in last one decade. Population moved in search for employment and better educational carrier.

1.2. Racial Discrimination and Sexual Violence

The migrants from North East India surprisingly started facing racial discrimination and sexual violence against their men and women in Delhi and NCR. Caste discrimination is constantly reported issue from different parts of Indian but the racial discrimination is less heard until four to five years ago. All of sudden racial discrimination meted out, particularly to North East Indian communities in Delhi and NCR from general public. North East girls became vulnerable to sexual violence in their homes in work places and in market areas, while the male folks suffered physical attacks and racial discrimination from general public. Their salaries are held up and termination from their jobs by company owners without any prior notice and reasons given.

There has been a paradigm shift from racial discrimination to sexual violence and from sexual violence to human trafficking. Human trafficking agents have begun targeting North East India region to recruit young boys and girls with false promises of jobs and free education.

1.3. Inactive of Police

On top of racial discrimination from general public, the North East Indian communities in Delhi and NCR face racial discrimination from Delhi and NCR police. Police refuses to take the complaints lodged by the North East Indian victims until pressure comes upon them from higher authorities, civil societies and media.

1.4. Bureaucrat Silence

The North East India bureaucrats, community and student leaders are less bothered until their own community members face racial discrimination and sexual violence. Individual, who does not have their community leaders, suffers without any help when they face racial attack and sexual violence.

2.0. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this study is to explore the trend of North East Indian migration and challenges faced in Delhi and NCR that through an academic research project, a documentation may be produced for law enforcing agents and concerned governments to introduce suitable laws, policies and plan of actions and implement them to end sexual violence, racial discrimination and challenges of human trafficking faced by North East India communities.

3.0. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

3.1. Laws, Policies and Plan of Actions

This study is significant for state governments of North East India to introduce and implement appropriate laws, policies and plan of actions to address the trend of migration and challenges faced in Delhi and NCR. The challenges of push factors for North East Indian migration addressed in this study will be significant for Union and

North East state governments to include suitable projects and policies to address the challenges in the region.

3.2. Safety of North East Communities

This study is significant as its finding and recommendations will address the issue of racial discrimination, sexual violence and challenges of human trafficking faced by North East Indian communities for community leaders, student bodies, North East Indian churches in Delhi and civil societies.

3.3. Legal Equality

The finding of this study will also be helpful in seeking the equal legal remedies to challenges faced by North East Indian communities in Delhi.

3.4. Delhi and NCR Governments

A proper document on sexual violence, racial discrimination and challenges of human trafficking faced by North East communities is needed for Delhi and neighboring and Union governments. The finding of this study will help the concerned governments and law enforcing agents to introduce and implement adequate laws, policies and plan of actions to end plights faced by North East women and communities in Delhi and NCR.

3.5. Delhi and NCR Police Machineries

The police officers on duty refused, delayed and denied in lodging complaints on racial and sexual assault faced by North East communities. In most of the incidents when lower range of police personnel reluctance to perform their duty, help is sought from higher police officers. The finding will be significant for Delhi police to identify the lapses and negligence committed by police officers on duty.

4.0. THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

4.1. Why More Migration from North East India?

Number of people migrating to other mega cities from North East India in last one decade raised and majority of them landed at Delhi and NCR. What are the trends for push and pull factors and why most choose Delhi?

4.2. Why is Discrimination to North East People?

The North Easterners look different from mainline Indians but definitely they are Indian by citizen. In spite of being the citizen of India, why is racial discrimination meted to North Easterners and their women became easy target for sexual violence in Delhi and NCR?

4.3. Why is Human Trafficking a Challenge for North East India?

Human trafficking in North East Indian states is reported in recent times. Why is human trafficking an issue and challenge for the region?

4.4. Why is Police Reluctant Taking the Complaints?

Question to the discrimination meted out by General public to North East people living in Delhi and NCR, unexpected action of police officer is about why do they discriminate North East communities by not taking complaint lodged and fail to take action on accused even after the cases registered after much pressure from public and media?

5.0. ASSUMPTION

The assumptions to the issues of North East Indian migration and challenges faced by North East people in Delhi and NCR differ between different people. The followings are some of those assumptions, which need to be tested. The study collects sample populations from various part of North East India and attempted to test these assumption through literature research, field interviews and data collection through questionnaires.

5.1. Push Factors to North East Indian Migration

Many feel the root cause of push factor for North East India migration is due to socio-political unrest in region, which has effected economic development, employment opportunities and educational system in the region. The finding the trends of push factor for migration to other cities of India is different from assumption.

5.2. Root Cause of Racial Discrimination and Sexual Violence

North East community and student leaders feel that the root causes of racial discrimination, physical attacks, non-payment of salaries by company owners, termination of job without prior notice, landlord harassments and sexual abuses are caused by the mindset of people.

5.3. Cultural Gap

The people of Delhi and police officers assume that the root causes of the racial discrimination faced by North East people in Delhi are cause by the culture gap between local and North East communities.

5.4. Divisive Response from North East Community Leaders

There is an assumption than North East community leaders do not bother about racial discrimination and sexual violence until their community members are not affected, whereas perpetrators do not differentiate North Easterners as different tribes.

5.5. The Majority of Victims are from Tribal Communities

It is believed that racial discrimination and sexual violence is faced mostly by tribal communities from the region. This assumption also needs to be tested by case studies.

5.6. Paradigm Shift to Human Trafficking

A silent fear among North East India communities is neo phenomena of human trafficking, which has affected the North East India states. There has been a paradigm shift from social profiling to sexual harassment and to human trafficking.

6.0. LIMITATION

The study is limited to primary and secondary resources. The primary sources are collected from field and literature research, which includes the 107 respondents and 96 victims of whose cases are reported to NESC&H. The primary resources also includes documentations and two previous research undertook by NESC&H in 2008 on media clipping of sexual harassment against women in Delhi and another in 2009 on racial discrimination against North Easterners. Respondents are limited to communities from eight North East India states, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, who are living in Delhi and NCR. The respondents are exclusively limited to North East Indian migrants in Delhi and NCR and few key Non-North Eastern government officials who are directly related to the issues and challenges faced by the communities. Secondary resources include data and abstract reports such as a like North East Career Centre¹ and Jagori, which were published in local and national news papers.

Geographically, the study is limited to areas where North Easterners are located in Delhi and NCR, where majority of victims to racial discrimination and sexual violence against North East men and women took place. They are Munika, Moti Bagh, Dwarka, Defense Colony, Khanpur Mukherjee Nagar, Gandhi Vihar, and Nehru Vihar in Delhi and Sikhanderpur and Sahara Mall in Gurgaon.

7.0. METHODOLOGY

The study uses quantitative methodological approach through questionnaires², which contains two sections: First, to gather data dealing with real life issues and socio-political condition of North East Indian state. Second section deals with real life situation in Delhi and NCR to gather data with specific reference to the challenges faced by North Easterners.

The methodology is classified into three formats used in conducting field interview. One by a team of four members with printed questionnaires, each was assigned with specific state(s) of North East India and locality where communities are living. Secondly, electronic based survey forms with same content of printed version were uploaded online and link given to www.nehelpline.net and email for respondents to fill up. All the filled up forms from the respondents were stored in a Microsoft Excel file, which is downloadable after completing the survey. Restoring all data in one Microsoft Excel file made much easier for data analysis. Third, telephonic interview was also used when the respondents answer the questions.

Quantitative methodology was used in data analysis. The respondents were analyzed on the basis of gender, state representation and their socio-religious background. To find any coherent connection to their migration and real life situation in home states of the respondents, their socio-economic and educational conditions were also collected and analyzed accordingly.

The North East Indian migration data collected from NE Career Centre based at Guwahati was collected from secondary sources. NE Career Centre gave total population of North East migration from 2005 to 2009 with figures of each year. Population of migrants from study

¹ Appendix # 1

² Appendix # 2

and jobs were given in percentage wise and they are recalculated to point population sample in this study.

8.0. DEFINITION OF TERMS

8.1. North East Indian

North East Indian refers to people from eighth states - Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, whose culture, race, faith and traditions are different from mainline Indian societies.

8.2. Migrants

The term 'migrants' is used when a citizen of a county goes and lives in another county but terming the same citizen who goes and lives in another city of different state within the country, the term becomes questionable. Anthropologist uses the term 'urban migration' to same fellow citizen who migrates from rural areas to urban cities. Taking advantage from this concept, North East Indians living in Delhi and NCR are termed as migrants.

8.3. Delhi and NCR

Delhi is the National Capital of India with over one core population represented by people from all over India. National Capital Region (NCR) is the neighboring cities of Gurgaon and Faridabad in Haryana and Ghaziabad and Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

8.4. Challenges Faced by North East Indians

The challenges faced by North East Indians living in Delhi and NCR include social profiling, physical attack, sexual violence and these are shifted to human trafficking.

Chapter II: NORTH EAST INDIAN MIGRATION

Until early 2000 AD, most of the people who came to cities like Delhi were for purpose of central government jobs and to pursue higher studies. A larger number of people began migrating after 2000 and increased in last five years, mainly in pursuit of higher studies and a hunt for employment opportunities. Prasant Barooah of NE Career Centre reports, “If you look at the trend analysis on North East Indian students going abroad for Higher Studies and job opportunities (2005-2009), it shows increasing trend till about 2007, but decreasing trend since 2008.”³ But migrating to other cities of India went high.

1.0. PUSH FACTORS FOR NORTH EAST INDIAN MIGRATIONS

The record of migration from North East India states maintained by NE Career Centre at Guwahati and finding of this research of North East people who came to Delhi for study and jobs reveals that main push factor is ill-fitted educational system with limited choice of studies in the region.

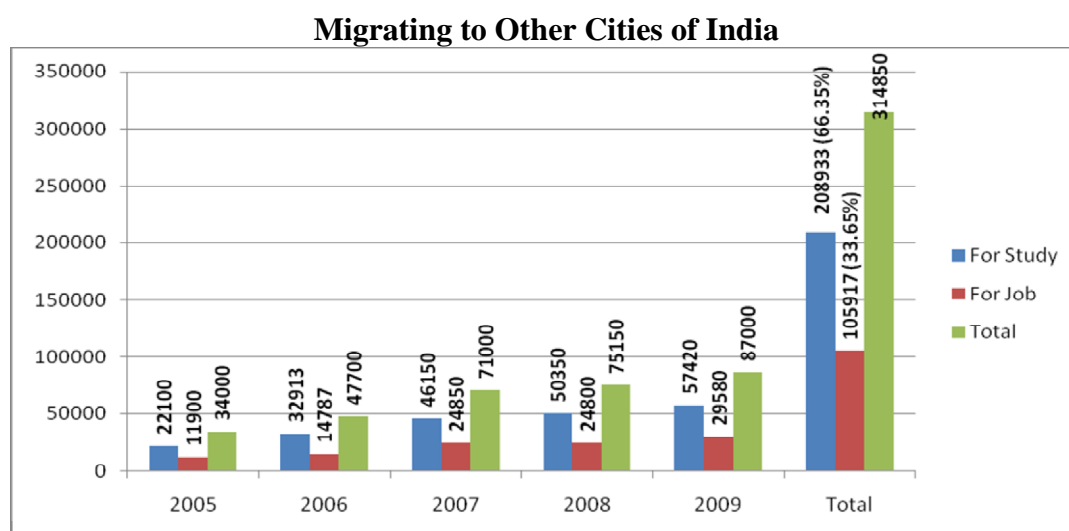


Table No. 1⁴

Over 314,850 populations migrated from North East India to other mega cities in search higher studies and employment during 2005 to 2009. Migration growth rate from 2008 to 2009 is 13.62% and at this rate, approximate number of people migrated in 2010 is close to 100,000 populations, numbering total population over 414,850, which is 12 times higher in last six years. Delhi is most choice destiny with over 200,000 North East Indian populations, which is 48.21%.

³ Assam Chronicle, “Student outflux from North East India,” <http://www.assamchronicle.com/node/240> (accessed 12 February 2011).

⁴ Assam Chronicle, “Student outflux from North East India.”

Out of total migrants, around 85% numbering 275,250 migrants for higher education while 15% numbering 139,600 for jobs in government and private sectors.

In Table No. 2 over 39,660 populations go aboard mostly for higher education and employment during 2005 to 2009 and 33% of them returns back to India. Australia, New Zealand, South East Asian countries still remain a preferred destination for NE students for higher education.⁵

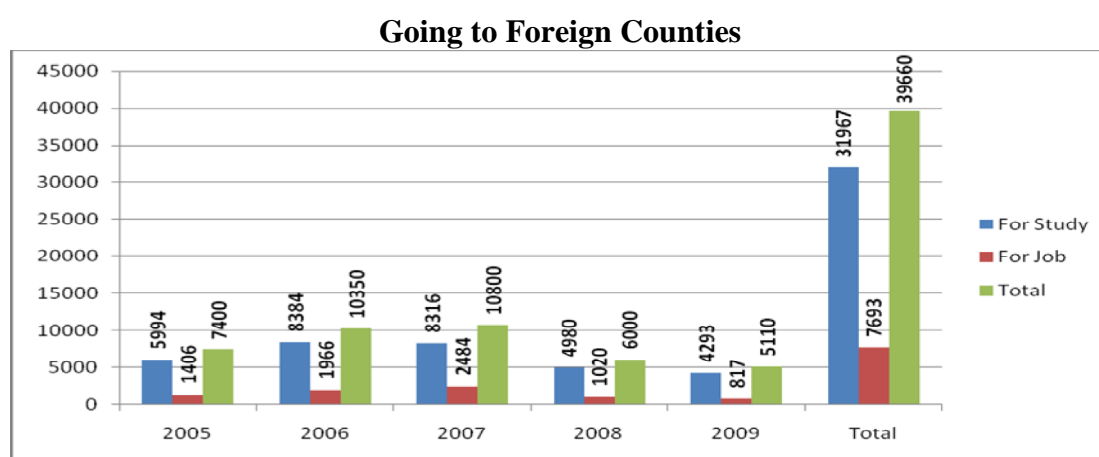


Table No. 2⁶

The duration of stay in mega cities differs from community to community. Most of the student community come for four to five years and return home at completion of studies while those who manage to get a job continue on or migrate to other cities. Out of 314,850 North East India populations who migrate to other mega cities in India, only 5% of North East Indian migrants return back at completion of their studies.⁷ Those who work in government jobs and the private sector stay until they retire and return to their native state. But this phenomenon is likely to change in the days ahead due to the unrest and socio-political situation in the home states.

1.1. Lack of Educational Infrastructure in North East India

Lack of educational infrastructure with limited choice of studies available in North East India is a major push factor for migration to other cities and overseas for higher studies. Vanlalchhawna record the numbers of educational institution in the region. “As on 2002-03, there were 478 colleges for general education, 113 colleges for professional education and 15 universities/deemed universities, 5 central universities, 4 state universities and 6 others...”⁸ Most of these higher educational institutions dominated by general, arts, science and commerce. Professional schools are lacking. “The region as a whole is backward in technical and other professional studies. Medical education in the North East India is highly inadequate.”⁹

⁵ Assam Chronicle, “Student outflux from North East India.”

⁶ Assam Chronicle, “Student outflux from North East India.”

⁷ Assam Chronicle, “Student outflux from North East India.”

⁸ Vanlalchhawna, *Higher Education in North-East India* (New Delhi: Mittal Publication, 2006) 172.

⁹ Vanlalchhawna, *Higher Education in North-East India*, 172.

Table No. 2 reveals that 75.93% of North East Indian migrates overseas for higher education and 33% of them return back to India. Table No. 1 reveals 66.35% of North East migration to other cities of India for the purpose of higher education and only 5% of them return back to North East India. According to Prasant Barooah, out of 314,850 populations, 208,933 (66.35%) go for higher studies like graduation, medical, engineering, management and research and Ph. D. studies.¹⁰

Condition of Education in North East India

Condition	Nos	Percentage
Very Bad	7	6.54%
Bad	42	39.25%
Good	51	47.66%
Very Good	7	6.54%
Total	107	100.00%

Table No 3

Current research finding in Table No. 3 by interviewing North East Indian migrants in Delhi and NCR during January and February 2011 reveals condition of educational system in the region. Only 6.54% says that education system is very good and 51% good, while 39.25% bad and 6.54% very bad.

Comparison of respondents' opinion between government and private schools in Table No. 4 reveals that those who confess that the education system in the region as "good" are those who have studied in private schools. The 14.29% respondents say private schools are very good, 75% good, 7.14% bad, 3.56% very bad while only 13.73% say that government schools are good, 62.75% bad and 23.53% very bad.

Comparison between Government and Private Schools

Trends	In Private Schools	Percentage	In Government Schools	Percentage
Very Good	8	14.29%	0	0.00%
Good	42	75.00%	7	13.73%
Bad	4	7.14%	32	62.75%
Very Bad	2	3.57%	12	23.53%
Total	56	100.00%	51	100.00%

Table No. 4

The educational system is badly affected. Almost all government-run schools have collapsed and only education has survived due to private schools. The most affected state is Manipur where 100 days without classes in a year for the last few years. The education affected by socio-political crisis in the region will affect the future of the region.

Parents, who are financially sound, manage to send their children for better education outside. Poor children are not able to go out of their home states and attracted to those

¹⁰ Assam Chronicle, "Student outflux from North East India."

who offer them for free education in other parts of India and failed in trapped of human traffickers. To stop the problem of child trafficking, the Supreme Court of India ordered any children below 12 years of age from going out of Manipur state, for example.¹¹ This order violates the freedom of parents desiring to send their children outside for better education, although the order of court is appreciated when it comes to stop child trafficking.

Trends of Pursuing Higher Education outside of North East Region

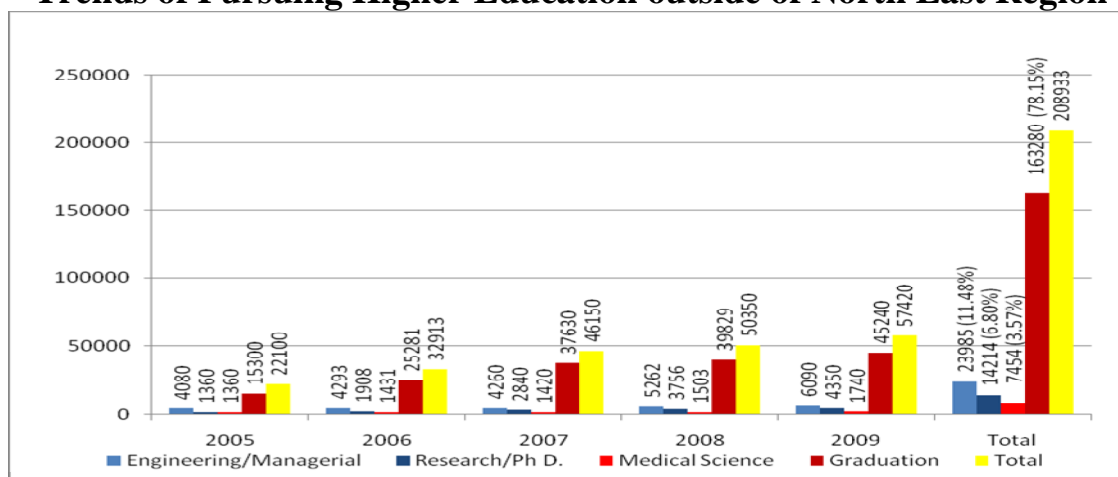


Table No. 5

Again, a major push factor for migration is the lack of educational opportunities. The field of professional education can't match the demand in the region caused by globalization. This pushes students outside of the region in pursuit of their higher studies. Prasant Barooah predicts, "But surely if in near future the educational infrastructure and facilities not improved and new ways of learning, new technologies not introduced, out-flux of students and talents would still continue..."¹² Data recorded by NE Career Centre in last five years reveals the trend of higher educational challenges in North East region.

Table No. 5 indicates that highest percentage of students migrate to other cities of India for graduate level studies with 78.15%, followed by 11.48% for engineering and managerial studies, 6.80% for research and doctorate studies and lowest 3.57% for medical studies. Data in Table No. 5 also indicates that migrating level for studies outside of North East India states is at graduation level.

1.2. Lack of Employment Opportunities

According to NSS 50th, 55th and 60th Round data, compare to 1993-90, during 2004 (Jan-Jun) the unemployment rate in terms of usual principle status has remained almost same, except for female in rural areas.¹³ The employment opportunities lack in all North East states. Government employment is small percentage of jobs available. Those who have political connections or money and power to bribe enjoy government

¹¹ Imphal Free Press, "SC forbids state children below 12 to be sent for studies outside the state," <http://ifp.co.in/shownews.php?newsid=13518> (accessed 12 February 2011).

¹² Assam Chronicle, "Student outflux from North East India."

¹³ Bimal Dev, Keya Sengupta and B. Datta Ray (eds), Globalization and North East India (Shillong: Concept Publishing Company, 2008), 285.

jobs. The educated poor, who have no political connections, have no hope for government employment in the region. Prasant Barooah reports,

Overall, employment and job opportunities are some of the basic reasons for migration. Now, if we look at just one aspect of North East, is the volume of population in our rural areas, where we have our maximum population. If we go deeper, do we see enough employment opportunities in these areas? Yes we have extensive agricultural and natural resources. But in absence of new ways doing things, new technologies our young generation is not really motivated. If one can suggest, one of the possible rural Employment Generation could be through vocational education.¹⁴

The private sector and non-governmental business establishments are lacking in the region. Private sector companies do not invest in North East India due to socio-political crisis. "Region has considerable unexploited and untapped natural resource potential. Industrially, the region continues to be the most backward and main factors are poor governance, lack of infrastructure development, inadequate supply of electricity, violence and extortion etc."¹⁵

Educated youngsters who managed to educate from private schools at the high school and intermediate level, are attracted by globalization in mega cities. Out 39,600 North East India oversea migrants, 7,694 populations go aboard for jobs during 2005-2009. 105,916 populations out of 3,14,850 people migrated to other mega cities of India in search of jobs. Trend has grown with 60% during 2005-09.¹⁶

1.3. Communal Conflicts

There are communal conflicts among the different heterogeneous communities and insurgencies, which have destroyed hundreds of villages, thousands of lives, made many homeless or orphans and internally displaced.

Two major ethnic communal conflicts occurred in state of Manipur between Naga-Kuki in 1992-09, Meitei-Pangal (Manipuri Muslim) conflict in 1993 and Kuki-Paite conflicts. Currently communal tension is being created between Nagas and Meiteis on Manipur state integration issue. Naga-Kuki clashes left 231 villages burnt, 285 villages deserted, 6,000 houses burnt, 10,000 families affected, 15,000 school going children affected, 60,000 people internally displaced and 1,300 people killed.¹⁷ Consequences continue till today, many children who are internally displaced, are not able to return to their schools.

Communal affected people migrate to other cities of India in search of livelihood and children suffer as they are targeted by human traffickers. Communal violence has become a factor for North Easterners seeking to migrate from the region.

¹⁴ Assam Chronicle, "Student outflux from North East India."

¹⁵ Dev, Sengupta and Ray (eds), *Globalization and North East India*, 142.

¹⁶ Assam Chronicle, "Student outflux from North East India."

¹⁷ SR Tohring, *Violence and Identity in North East India: Naga-Kuki Conflict* (New Delhi: A Mittal Pubical, 2010), 146.

1.4. Socio-Political Unrest

The socio-political unrest has affected education, economic and employment opportunities in North East India. The mushrooming of militants, bloodshed, constant public strikes, Armed Forces Special Powers Act, and corrupt nature of government are major feature of socio-political unrest in the region for over 50 years. Life in the region is a nightmare – 100 days of public strikes in a year – markets shut, schools closed, and public transportation off the road.¹⁸

Anungla Aier and Sapu Changkija debate in their essay that the economic stagnation is the result of ethno-political and socio-political unrest in North East India.

The North-East, despite its rich natural endowment, suffers from economic stagnation. The reasons for such a situation are many—the region's geography, difficult terrain, topography and the prevailing ethno-political unrest feature prominently among the reasons for this. While such factors create stagnation, they also perpetuate socio-political and ethnic problems.¹⁹

North East people live in their villages, towns, and cities in the midst of all these unrests for years, but people did not desire to leave their home states until globalization reached the mega cities of India. Thereafter, the young generation of North East India was attracted and started migrating in pursuit of employment, mostly in BPO call centers, shopping malls, and hospitality industries. Until socio-political condition returns to normal life, situation in the region will remain gloomy. Indian government's 'LOOK EAST POLICY' which targets to connect with Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN), might benefit more economic and development in the region but it will be huge challenge without sorting socio-political crisis in the region.

2.0. PULL FACTORS FOR NORTH EAST INDIA MIGRATION

The major pull factor for the migration of people from North East India is the impact of globalization. The four push factors mentioned earlier have existed in the region for the last few decades but the trend of migration to mega cities, particularly in search of job opportunities, did not take place until the emergence of globalization. Globalization has opened the doors for opportunities to people of North East India to mega cities.

2.1. Better Education Environments

Delhi has 937 Government schools²⁰ and 1153 Private schools.²¹ Majority of people from North East India migrates to Delhi for higher and professional studies. Schools in Delhi attract small number of children from North East India. The rich families can afford to send their children for high school education in Delhi and so for children of

¹⁸ Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, "Who Rules Manipur's Street?"

<http://www.ipcs.org/article/india/who-rules-manipurs-streets-1839.html> (accessed 13 February 2011).

¹⁹ T. B. Subba and G. C. Ghosh, *The Anthropology of North-East India: A Text Book* (New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2003), 375.

²⁰ Directorate of Education, "Government Schools,"

http://www.edudel.nic.in/mis/schoolplant/school_information.htm (accessed 13 February 2011).

²¹ Centre for Civil Society, "Overview of School Education in Delhi,"

<http://www.ccsindia.org/ccsindia/policy/ed/studies/wp0068.pdf> (accessed 13 February 2011).

those parents living in Delhi and NCR. In future more children are likely to migrate to Delhi if socio-political and education infrastructure remains same condition.

Delhi has recognized four Universities – University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University and Jamia Millia Islamia University. Under Delhi University, there are 82 colleges offering various fields of studies from Gradual to Ph. D. level.²² Jawaharlal Nehru University offers School of Arts and Aesthetics, School of Biotechnology, School of Computer and System Sciences, School of Environmental Sciences, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, School of International studies, School of Language Literature and Cultural Studies, School of Life Sciences, School of Physical Sciences, School of Social Sciences, Special Centre for Molecular Medicine, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance and Special Centre for Nano Sciences.²³

The better environment for educational opportunities with multiple choices of courses has attracted the young generation from North East India. It attracts all students in the region, but only a small percentage of the population can afford.

2.2. Employment Opportunities

The employment opportunity in Delhi and NCR has played a role of pull factor for North East migration. Employment opportunity in central government jobs has attracted educated youngsters from the North East India. They have to compete by taking examinations but getting in a central government jobs is relatively easy because many of North Easterners come from Scheduled Caste and Tribe communities and who are qualified for reserved jobs both in higher and lower professions.

The employment opportunities mushroomed in BPO private unorganized sectors. Shalini Verma writes, “What is still more encouraging is that although countries like Australia, China, the Philippines and Ireland have, of late, emerged as the close competitors of India in the BPO sector, the latter is still the favoured destination.”²⁴

Mark Kobayashi Hillary supports Shalini Verma, “As the National Capital Region (NCR), most of the major outsourcing firms has a presence here. NIIT and HCL Technologies are based here and BPO players Daksh, vCustomer and WiproSpectramind all have major local facilities.”²⁵

Delhi and NCR have 7509 private sector companies in various fields.²⁶ These private sector companies provide job opportunities in Advertising and Public relations, Aviation, Cosmetics and Beauty Industry, Bio Technology, Call Center Operations, Drafting, Electronic Media, Education, Fire Service, Creative and Freelance Writing, Geology, Hardware and Networking, Healthcare, Hospitality Sector, IT-ITES Sector,

²² University of Delhi, “Colleges,” <http://www.du.ac.in/index.php?id=40> (accessed 14 February 2011).

²³ Jawaharlal Nehru University, “Schools,” <http://www.jnu.ac.in> (accessed 14 February).

²⁴ Shalini Verma, *Soft Skills for the BPO Sector* (New Delhi: Dorling Kindersley Pvt. Ltd., 2009), 34-35.

²⁵ Mark Kobayashi Hillary, *Outsourcing to India: The Offshore Advantage* (New York: Springer, 2004), 106.

²⁶ Fundoodata, “Companies in Delhi and NCR,” <http://www.fundoodata.com/companies-in/delhi-ncr-l0> (accessed 13 February 2011).

Jewelry, NGOs, Medical Research, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Performing Arts, Pharmaceutical Industry, Physiotherapy, Print Media, Real Estate, Retailing Sector and Travel and Tourism Industry.²⁷

Trend of North Easterners Employment in Delhi & NCR

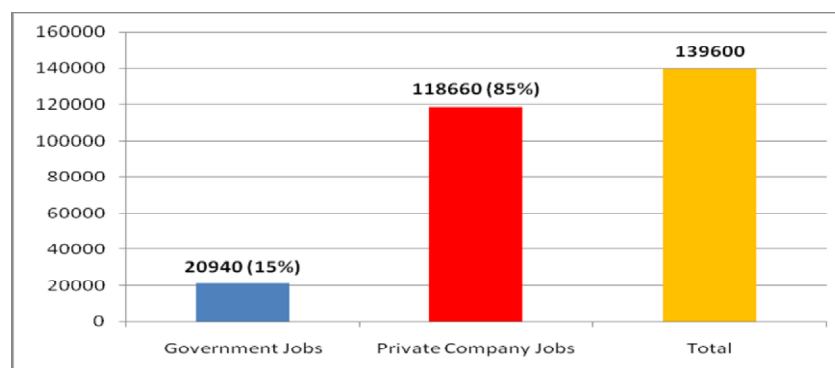


Table No. 6

Table No. 6 reveals the North East Indian employment trend in Delhi and NCR. 15% are employed in government sectors while 85% in non-organized private companies.

2.3. Globalization

Globalization is another pull factor for North East migration to Delhi and NCR. Globalization reached India in early 1990s and Government of India started changing its economic policy thereafter. B. Datta Ray writes,

“India adopted the policies of globalization, liberalization and privatization and market economy in the wake of economic crisis of 1991 which arose due to collapse of Soviet Union and East European Socialist economy and the gulf war which resulted in global economic power imbalance.”²⁸ The impact of globalization is on the following major sectors and how India has shaped up industrial, agricultural, external and financial sectors.²⁹

Globalization has opened doors to many other employment opportunities, particularly for the semi-professional and semi-skilled persons. Many young boys and girls from North East India, who are semi-skilled or semi-professional, get jobs in organized and non-organized BPO private sector companies, hospitality corporations, and shopping malls. Many of these young people have appealing personalities, the ability to communicate in English, and come from a hospitable/socially oriented culture that values honesty and hard work. This makes them attractive candidates to private companies.

²⁷ Delhi Colleges, “Career Options in Delhi and NCR,” <http://www.delhicolleges.org> (accessed 13 February 2011).

²⁸ Dev, Sengupta and Ray (eds), *Globalization and North East India*, IX.

²⁹ Talluru Shreenivas (eds), *Globalisation and Emerging India* (Delhi: Discovery Publishing House, 2009), 29.

Chapter III

CHALLENGES FACED BY NORTH EAST INDIANS

Due to socio-political unrest, North East Indians migrate to Delhi and other mega cities but they face challenges, particularly in Delhi and NCR. They are socially discriminated and sexually violated. When they face racial attack and sexual violence, their educational careers, jobs and business affected.

Before going into the issue of racial discrimination faced by North East Indian communities in Delhi, it will be worth to look into racism and its relevant Indian social setup in India. India has condemned racial discrimination against its people in other countries and kept quiet when it occurred in India to its own citizen.

Carter A. Wilson defines racism, "Racism assumed different forms in different countries and historical periods."³⁰ He also said about its connection with other aspects of society, "Economic factors play a primary role in producing and sustaining racism. These factors include the accumulation process, private property, and modes of production."³¹ According to George M. Fredrickson, "...racism" may now express itself in institutional patterns or social practices that have adverse effects on members of groups thought of as "races," even if a conscious belief that they are inferior or unworthy is absent."³²

In spite of much struggle against racism, it still remains as relevant in many societies. Wilson adds on it, "Racism is a modern historical phenomenon, grounded in alienating, exploitative, and oppressive economic arrangements."³³ As casteism is in Indian soils for centuries so is the racism existed from ancient world. "A number of scholars who have examined the history of the concept of race and race prejudice suggest that there are few examples of race prejudice in ancient civilizations."³⁴

For Indian society, the racism has deeper and wider connection beyond Wilson's description of racism. The subject of casteism is not the issue addressed in this study, yet it has close connection with racism in Indian society. Racism is based on one's socio-economic, educational and color of skin in general, whereas the casteism is purely based on Brahmanical philosophy of Hinduism. The abolition of racism is possible by the improvement of one's socio-economic, education and cross breeding of race whereas the casteism has to do with the reformation of Hinduism because both are closely knitted that supports one another. The Bloggerbase website says, "Racism and caste system are the two sides of a same coin: Racism is found in USA and Europe and caste system is found in India."³⁵ The practice of racism in India is rooted in the caste practices of Hinduism. The civil societies and activists

³⁰ Carter A. Wilson, *Racism: From Slavery to Advanced Capitalism*, (New Delhi: Sage Publication, [n.d.]), 16.

³¹ Wilson, *Racism: From Slavery to Advanced Capitalism*, 16.

³² George M. Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History*, (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton Publication Press), 2002.

³³ Wilson, *Racism: From Slavery to Advanced Capitalism*, 37.

³⁴ Wilson, *Racism: From Slavery to Advanced Capitalism*, 37.

³⁵ Bloggerbase, "Racism and caste system are the two sides of a same coin,"

<http://www.bloggerbase.com/articles/world-affairs/politics-and-opinions/racism-and-caste-system-are-the-two-sides-of-a-same-coin/> (accessed 26 June 2009).

formulated a documents to describe the caste is worse than racism for United National session of Racism in 2001. I quote,

A group of 40 academicians, jurists, NGO representatives and civil society organisations, who met at a one-day conference at the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, on May 7, 2001, denounced the subcontinent's caste system as ``worse than racism". In a statement, they said the meeting took serious exception to the Government's moves to scuttle a discussion on caste in the forthcoming World Conference Against Racism organised by the United Nations to be held from August 31 to September 7 in Durban, South Africa.³⁶

The discrimination faced by the people of north east Indian communities in national capital and its surrounding regions are purely based on the racism and the racial discrimination is the reflection of caste structure as most of the north east Indians are from lower caste and tribal communities.

1.0. SEXUAL CRIMES

Delhi and NCR is known as a rape city and sexual violence against women in last four years. Crime record of sexual violence against women is huge and not able to stop it. Law enforcing agencies, particularly, have been in reactive mode in tackling these crimes. Mid Day news paper published an incident of a brave cop who dropped a girl safe and the heading record the crimes against women in Delhi and NCR.

Last year saw a spurt in rape and molestation cases in the city. There were 489 rape incidents as against 459 in 2009. The figure for 2006 was 609, 581 for 2007 and 466 for 2008. There was a rise in molestation cases as well last year - from the previous year's 532 to 585. While 2008 had witnessed 597 cases, there were 835 such incidents in 2007. The rape per lakh population has shown an increase to 2.8 from last year's 2.65. The figure was 4.16 in 2005 and 3.82 in 2006, the highest in the last decade. Of the persons arrested for rape, 52 were relatives, 65 friends, 222 neighbours and 130 other known persons. In only 20 cases, rapes were committed by strangers. In molestation cases, neighbours were accused in 42% of the cases.³⁷

Trend of Sexual Violence in Delhi and NCR

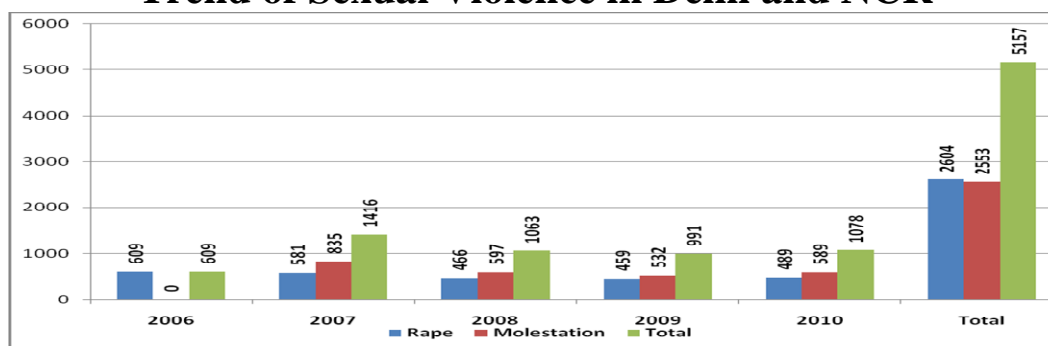


Table No. 7³⁸

³⁶ A Dalit-Bahujan Media, "Caste Discrimination," <http://www.ambedkar.org/News/Castediscrimination.htm> (accessed 26 January 2011).

³⁷ Mid Day, "Delhi Cop Drives BPO Girl to Safety," <http://www.mid-day.com/news/2011/feb/240211-news-delhi-Police-sub-inspector-escorted-call-centre-employee-Munirka.htm> (accessed 25 February 2011).

³⁸ Mid Day, "Delhi Cop Drives BPO Girl to Safety,"

Data in Table No. 7 indicates that in 2010, every 18 hours, a woman was raped and every 14 hours, a woman molested. Jagori an organization working for women in Delhi did a pilot research in 2009 and their finding match close to data in Table No. 6. "Around 70 % women reported being harassed by the roadside while around 60 % men and 71 % common witnesses reported that they have seen women being harassed."³⁹

2.0. RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Indians at numerous times protested whenever racial discrimination meted out from different countries, particularly from western world. Indian film super star actress Shilpa Shetty's protested against racial remark by co-contestant in *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2007 in UK. Wikipedia the online keeps the event in record,

The *Celebrity Big Brother* racism controversy is a series of events related to alleged incidents of racist behaviour by contestants on the television series *Celebrity Big Brother 2007* shown on British television station Channel 4. The accusations of racism centred on comments made by several of the contestants on this reality television show, most notably former *Big Brother* contestant Jade Goody, glamour model Danielle Lloyd, and singer Jo O'Meara, which were directed towards Indian actress Shilpa Shetty.⁴⁰

The allegation of racial remarks of Indian cricket-baller Harbajan Singh is still remembered among the cricket stars. It was international issue protested by Australia cricket Andrew Symonds which resulted the pulling Harbhajan from the series until the hearing conducted by ICC. Times of India reported the issue, "Only two months back during India's tour to Australia, Harbhajan was in the middle of a row with Andrew Symonds followed alleged racist remarks. Harbahajan allegedly called Symonds 'big monkey' during the ill tempered Sydney Test following which the Australian brought charges of racial abuse against the off-spinner."⁴¹

The issue of racial attack on Indians in Australia is big issue, which has reached the highest authorities of both the countries. Wikipedia also keep the documentation in record on racial attack on Indians in Australia,

In May and June 2009, allegedly racially motivated attacks against Indian international students and a perceived poor response by the police sparked protests in Australia. Rallies were held in both Melbourne and Sydney. Impromptu street protests were held in Harris Park, a suburb of western Sydney with a large Indian population. The protests attracted attention from the international media, with coverage in India especially widespread and critical of Australia. Representatives of the Indian government met the Australian government to express concern and request that Indians be protected. The Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, expressed regret and called for the attackers to be brought to justice.⁴²

³⁹ Jagori, "Safe City Free of Violence against Women and Girls Initiative," <http://jagori.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/brief-survey-report.pdf> (accessed 26 February 2011).

⁴⁰ Wikipedia, "Celebrity Big Brother Racism Controversy," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celebrity_Big_Brother_racism_controversy (accessed 24 June 2009).

⁴¹ Indo-Asian News Service, "Not Long Ago," <http://ipl.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/quickiearticleshow/msid-2986510.cms> (accessed 24 January 2011).

⁴² Wikipedia, "2009 attacks on Indian students in Australia," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_attacks_on_Indian_students_in_Australia (accessed 24 January 2011).

India never tolerates the racial discrimination to its citizen whether it happens to film industries or sport world or civil society. The protest against the racial discrimination meted to Indians is the rights of citizen to fight and defend. But interesting is the unchecked concerns of racial discrimination in home country.

Racial discrimination meted out to different sections of societies including the visiting foreigners. Casteism and racism is all mixed up in Indian society Manoj Kewalramni of NDTV reports, "Traditionally, racism in India has been discussed in the context of caste discrimination."⁴³ It is also true to African nationalities. Kewalramni writes, "However, reports that immigrants from Africa were being denied housing, heckled at, and generally referred to as "scary," "dirty" and "Negroes" in our most cosmopolitan cities are evidence of our discriminatory attitude when it comes to skin colour."⁴⁴

3.0. SOCIAL PROFILING

NESC&H conducted a pilot research on racial attack on North Easterners in Delhi and NCR in 2009. "A two-year study by the North East Support Centre and Helpline has now confirmed that 86% of people from the NE face racial discrimination in Delhi."⁴⁵ The racial discrimination has been meted out to North East Indians for last many years in different parts of India and root cause is social profiling.⁴⁶ Many north eastern communities are affected by racial discrimination for so long time.

The discrimination faced by North Eastern communities highlighted in local and national media. The Chief Minister of Mizoram came heavy on the issue. Times of India quoted Mizoram Chief Minister Pu Lalthanhawla, "They ask me if I am from Nepal. They forget that the northeast is part of India. I have told many that 'See, I am an Indian like you.'⁴⁷ Reporting on sexual violence against women from North East India began from beginning of 2005 with a gangrape case at Dhaula Kuan. The Tribune reports,

"The 19-year-old girl, who hails from the north-east, was studying via correspondence from the Delhi University. In the statement, which she had given at the time of registration of the FIR, the girl said she had been drugged but she had a vague memory that she was taken near Rajghat where she was transferred to the second vehicle, a Maruti."⁴⁸

Since then North Easterners are facing severe racial discrimination and sexual violence. NESC&H goes on record of sexual assault on North East girls in Delhi and NCR, 96 such reports of incidents were recorded in last four years.⁴⁹ However the communities kept silence without any help until Helpline under NESC&H was formed to assist the victims of racial harassment in October 2007.

⁴³ NDTV, "Cricket and Racism," http://74.125.153.132/search?q=cache:-PyGaeQQ-iIJ:www.ndtv.com/debate/showdebate.asp%3Fshow%3D1%26archive%3Dyes%26story_id%3D197%26template%3D%26category%3DHumanstory+racism+in+india&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=in. (accessed 24 January 2011).

⁴⁴ NDTV, "Cricket and Racism."

⁴⁵ The Times of India, "Why Delhi is an NE Nightmare," <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Why-Delhi-is-an-NE-nightmare/articleshow/4759762.cms> (accessed 16 February 2011).

⁴⁶ Hueiyen Lanpao, "Social Profiling: Root cause to racial discrimination faced by North Easterners," <http://www.hueiyenlanpao.com/news.php?newsid=3544> (accessed 16 February 2011).

⁴⁷ [n.a.], "I am Victim of Racism," *Times of India*, New Delhi edn, 26 June 2009, 1.

⁴⁸ [n.a.], "No headway in Dhaula Kuan gang rape case," *The Tribune*, Chandigarh edn, 10 May 2005, [n.p.]

⁴⁹ North East Support Centre & Helpline, "Discrimination to North East People – On Record," http://nehelpline.net/?page_id=218 (accessed 16 February 2011).

3.1. Racial Discrimination against North East Communities

Racial attack, discrimination and sexual violence against men and women from North East are reported every alternative day from different parts of Delhi and NCR. NESC&H conducted two pilot studies. One in 2008, keeping the media clipping of sexual violence in Delhi in first six months of the year, 50% of them happened to women from North East India.⁵⁰ Second study in 2009 on racial discrimination and the finding reveals 86% North East people in Delhi and NCR face social profiling.⁵¹ 14% of respondents, who did not face racial discrimination, are new comers, who are less than two years in Delhi and NCR. 86% of respondents who faced racial discrimination are those who have stayed in Delhi and NCR more than two years. This suggests that new comers are yet to face if they stay longer.

The nature of racial discrimination faced by people from North East India is identified from two sources. First from crime data maintained by NESC&H and second from field research conducted during January and February 2011.⁵²

Racial Discrimination Cases Recorded by NESC&H

Cases	Total		2005-08	2009	2010	2011	FIR	No FIR
Violence against women								
Molestation	35	36.46%	17	9	7	2	15	20
Rape	4	4.17%	2	1	1		4	0
Beating Girls	7	7.29%	2	3	1	1	5	2
Girls Trafficking	8	8.33%	5		2	1		8
Attempt Rape	2	2.08%	1		1		1	1
Total crime against women	56	58.33%						
Beating Boys	25	26.04%		20	2	3	5	20
Murder	5	5.21%	1	3	1		4	1
Non Payment Salary	6	6.25%	4	2			0	6
Rent Non Refund	2	2.08%	1	1			0	2
Media Bias	1	1.04%	1				0	1
Missing Person	1	1.04%			1		1	
Total	96	100.00%	34	39	16	7	35	61
Percentage			35.42%	40.63%	16.67%	7.29%	36.46%	63.54%

Table No. 8⁵³

NESC&H records 96 cases in Table No. 8 that were handled and reported from the time of its formation in 2007 till February 2011. Sexual violence against women tops among all with 58.33% of cases handled by NESC&H. The above mentioned cases are reported to NESC&H and there are many cases unreported. Highest form of

⁵⁰ The Times of India, "Girls from NE Soft Target," <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Girls-from-NE-soft-target-in-city/articleshow/5166105.cms> (accessed 24 February 2011).

⁵¹ Christianity Today, "85% of North-East Indians Face Racial Discrimination in Capital," <http://in.christiantoday.com/articles/86-of-northeast-indians-face-racial-discrimination-in-capital/4202.htm> (accessed 24 February 2011).

⁵² A Pilot Survey on "North East Migration and Challenges in Delhi and NCR.

⁵³ North East Support Centre & Helpline, "Crimes Record," http://nehelpline.net/?page_id=218 (accessed 24 February 2011).

crimes faced by people from North East India is sexual violence against women followed by physical violence against men with 26%. Sexual violence against women from North East India includes four severe cases. 1) Dhaula Kuan gangrape case of a 19 years old Mizo girl in 2005 in a moving car, 2) Seven years old minor girl from Nagaland gangraped, murdered and dumped in a water tank in Mahipalpur in April 2009, 3) a 19 years old girl from Manipur attempted rape and murdered by an IIT Ph. D. student at Murnika on October 22, 2009 and 4) another Dhaula Kuan gangrape case of a 30 years old Mizo girl work in BPO company from Mizoram on October 23, 2010.

Social profiling – a mindset, is the root cause to racial attack, discrimination and sexual violence against people from North East India living in Delhi and NCR. Whenever cases happened, police officers on duty refused to entertain the complaints and rather give chance to perpetrators to come up with well-cooked ideas to justify their action against North East people. During the time delayed by police, the perpetrators come up with allegation to justify their attack on victims. Police connives with perpetrators and negotiate compromise without registering complaints.

Social profiling is also meted by law enforcing agencies. Out 96 cases, only 36.46% of crimes are registered and 63.54% of cases are not registered. Non-registration of cases was mostly due to refusal by police officers on duty. Cases are registered after pressure from media and higher official mounted upon them. In a delegation to Commissioner Police of Gurgaon Mr. Mahendra Singh in December 2008 on a pertaining issue of two girls molested and beaten by landlord. According to Mahendra Singh, “The attack on North East girls in Gurgaon is the result of cultural gap between the local communities and North East girls.”⁵⁴

A rape case in section court in Gurgaon in 2009 surprised a North East lawyer, who went to accompany victim. Judge, public persecutor and defending lawyers managed to influence witness hostile from victim. In an expression from section court judge that women from North East India involves in immoral and seek legal help to get compensation. Current study conducted during January and February 2011 on North East Migration and Challenges in Delhi and NCR reveals unprecedented challenges of racial discrimination and sexual violence against people from North East India.

Survey on Racial Discrimination in 2011

Gender			Face Discrimination		No Discrimination	
	Num	Percentage	Num	Percentage	Num	Percentage
Men	30	28%	25	83%	5	17%
Women	77	72%	57	74%	20	26%
Total	107		82	77%	25	23%

Table No. 9

The interviews conducted with 107 respondents from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim, who are studying and working in government and private sectors in Delhi and NCR. The sample selected from the places where most of the North Easterners are living – Gurgaon, Murnika, and Delhi

⁵⁴ Mahendra Singh, Commission Police, (Gurgaon, Interview, 16 December 2008).

University North Campus. The random selection of sample is also based on the representation of north eastern states. Majority of the samples hails from Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram who are more exposed to racial discrimination and sexual violence.

Steps are taken by Delhi Police and Government to end racial discrimination faced by people from North East India but not changed much. Table No 9 reveals 77% North Easterners in Delhi face racial attack, discrimination and sexual violence according survey conducted during January and February 2011. The study also finds that 83% of men and 74% of women from North East India faced racial discrimination in various forms like physical attack, rape, molestation, sexual abusive remark and vulgar in market places, colleges, work place, colonies and homes.

Yearly Comparative Record of Racial Attack

	Total	2005-08	2009	2010	2011
Racial Attack	96	34	39	16	7
Percentage		35.42%	40.63%	16.67%	7.29%

Table No. 10

The year 2009 records highest record of racial attacks with 40.63% of crimes shown in Table No. 10 and decline in 2010. The reason why racial attack raised in 2009 could be due to the lack of proactive and preventive measurement taken by Delhi police and government. Rising the racial discrimination, attack and sexual violence against men and women from North East India from 2005 onward, NESC&H has been voicing with documentations, memorandums and delegations to Delhi and NCR police and government machineries. Yet the hints from NESC&H have been ignored until 19 years old Naga girl from Manipur was murdered by IIT Ph. D. students in her rented resident on October 22, 2009.

State-wise Distribution of Racial Discrimination Victims

States	Face Racial Discrimination	Percentage
Arunachal Pradesh	3	3.57%
Assam	15	17.86%
Manipur	41	48.81%
Meghalaya	5	5.95%
Mizoram	7	8.33%
Nagaland	11	13.10%
Sikkim	2	2.38%
Total	84	100.00%

Table No. 11

Thereafter, the law enforcing agencies, particularly Delhi police accepted the fact that North East people are racially attacked, particularly women for easy sexual assault. However, episode of Dhaula Kuan gangrape case of 30 years old Mizo girl shocked whole nation that Delhi has become unsafe city for women.

Tackling the challenges of plight faced by people from North East India in Delhi and NCR, Delhi police and local governments should not be solemnly held responsible. It

will be also responsible of state governments of North East India states. To help for the state leaders, the current study has identified state-wise distribution of victims who faced racial discrimination. Table No. 11 records the respondents of 2011 survey that the worse affected state is Manipur with 48.86% of crimes, while Assam in second row with 17.86% and Nagaland third with 13.10%.

Challenges of racial discrimination and sexual violence against men and women from North East India in Delhi and NCR, is closely related with main factor of migration. The ill-fitted educational system with limited choice, which is also affected by socio-political unrest and economic falls, particularly in the state of Manipur.

3.2. Discrimination in BPO Private Sectors

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) private companies have opened doors for skill and semi skill people from North East India. 33.65% of migrants from North East India choose to work in BPO private companies in Delhi and NCR. Number of cases of racial discrimination against BPO workers from North East India is reported. Women are seduced by senior staff, managers and owners for sexual advances and molested in work places. In fear of losing jobs, victims keep quite without reporting. When reported, accused are covered by the company and complainers are victimized, suspended and held up their salaries.

No proper recruitment procedure, pay scale policy and retirement regulation in unorganized private sectors. India lack a regulation to protect BPO company workers' rights and most of the companies relies on their self made regulations, which are more of international nature. "After BFSI, BPO has the greatest exposure to regulations. Anil Patrick R examines the role that IT plays in empowering outsourcing companies as they comply with regulations, mostly international ones"⁵⁵

A time for proper regulation for BPO companies is now that Indian government must formulate to protect workers' rights in organized and non-organized BPO private companies. Worse effected workers are those from North East India, who are also racially discriminated in the companies they are working.

3.3. Nature of Racial Discrimination

Interviewing the North East students and communities living and working in Delhi and NCR reports that racial discrimination in forms of sexual harassment, physical assault, lewd remarks, harassment by landlords, non-payment of salaries by employers, suspension without proper notification and reasoning.⁵⁶

The harassment by landlords is another issue, which is not addressed so far. Majority of the North Easterners living in Delhi and NCR are young boys and girls, who are pursuing their higher studies and working in the private companies, malls and other business establishment. Since the earning from private companies and other business establishments, are comparatively very low and find difficult to manage their living cost and manage to support the family members back home. Majority of the students

⁵⁵ Network Magazine, "Regulations and Compliance," <http://www.networkmagazineindia.com/200503/coverstory02.shtml> (accessed 28 February 2011).

⁵⁶ Silkam Sangma, Ph. D. candidate, Delhi University (Delhi, Interview, 22 October 2006).

from North East states are from economically backward communities, so they choose the low cost rented rooms and accommodations in very backward colonies in Delhi and NCR, where majority of racial attacks and sexual violence occurred against North East men and women.⁵⁷

3.4. Causes of Racial Discrimination

The causes of racial discrimination are given in different views. The views are different between the North East India communities and the mainland Indians. Some of the statements given by the non-north east communities have sparked the issue in bitter feeling among North East communities. The statement given by Virendra Kumar Vice-Principal of Kirori Mal College sparked among north east communities and other women folk.

A furious debate is going on among the students of Delhi University ever since Kirori Mal College vice principal Virender Kumar's remarks that "revealing dresses" allegedly worn by girls from India's northeast triggered angry responses. Although a chastened Kumar has apologised, girl students, particularly those from the northeast, are still furious.⁵⁸

Time and again, the allegation of cultural differences is termed as faulty on part of the north east communities and root causes of attack upon their communities. Finding from the cases of racial discrimination recorded by NESC&H, most of the cases happened in their rented homes or working places.⁵⁹ The girls who used bulgur dresses are not reported of facing such discrimination. Majority of the victims of racial discrimination are innocents and their ignorance were taken for granted.⁶⁰

Study conducted in 2009 reveals that 86% of North East Indian communities living in Delhi and NCR face racial discrimination and root cause is social profiling. "Social profiling the people from North East India is the main root causes of sexual abuse, social discrimination and economic exploitation. Social profiling has caused North East girls as vulnerable in the eyes of perpetrators."⁶¹

The notion of social profiling – the opinion formed upon ones appearance, culture and leveling everyone equal with some opinions formed upon some experiences. Once a community is socially profiled, ones economic, social, educational and professional status does not matter and everyone is looked upon socially and racially with low image.

Social profiling is a mindset of perpetrators, who carefully distinguished between local women, women from outside Delhi including North East India. Perpetrators have different mindset over local women in Delhi and NCR. Asking for opinion on sexual violence against women in Delhi from a Census Supervisor, who came to take census of my family says, "Perpetrators have different mindset before committing

⁵⁷ Lansinglu Rongmei, President, North East Support Centre & Helpline (New Delhi, Interview, 23 June 2006).

⁵⁸ Mumbai Mizo, "Delhi University Campus leh Hmar Chhak ho Dress Code," <http://mumbaimizo.org/article/details.asp?id=64> (accessed 27 January, 2011).

⁵⁹ Ambika Hongsha, Secretary, North East Support Centre & Helpline (New Delhi, Interview, 27 January 2011).

⁶⁰ Hongsha, Interview.

⁶¹ Counter Current, "Social Profiling," <http://www.countercurrents.org/chandra250710.htm> (accessed 24 February 2011).

crimes against local women that they will have their parents, brothers and relatives who will come forward to fight against perpetrators but they don't have same mindset when they want to attack on women from outside."⁶² It is so true for women from North East India. Perpetrators with a mindset that these women are outsiders, strangers and nobody will come forward if crime committed against them.

3.5. Social Profiling is Reflection of Caste System

There is a gap between North Easterners and mainline people in socio-cultural integration. Both are blamed for failing to integrate from either side. Analyzing the opinions from various individuals, one may find that the women from North East India comes from free culture and secured environmental societies and they tend to live exactly in Delhi and NCR, whereas in North India, women are culturally and socially kept under tight security of parents and families.

North East India women whose culture and social background are different from mainline socio-cultural setup, when migrated to Delhi and NCR with same style of lifestyle, they are considered as stranger, outsider and not part of larger society and even treated as polluting society, which defiles existing North India culture.

Racially North Easterners look different from rest of Indian society and falls under various caste hierarchies. Mongoloid looking stocks do not fall within four caste hierarchies, like Dalits. The mongoloid race is out of caste system. India's caste-based societies always look upon them from caste perspective and consider them outcaste like untouchable Dalits.

Women are considered lower than men in every caste-based and controlled society, particularly in North India. North East women in Delhi and NCR are considered never part of larger societies because of their racial and social background, who are different from North India women. Therefore, one may able to conclude saying that racial discrimination and sexual violence against North East men and women from local communities in Delhi and NCR is the reflection of caste system.

3.6. Challenges of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is reported worldwide as the largest organized crimes. National Human Rights Commission's senior research officer, Savita Bhakhry says, "Trafficking in human beings, more in women and children, is one of the fastest growing forms of criminal activity, next only to drugs and weapons trade, generating unaccountable profits annually."⁶³ India is also affected by this epidemic, which is not recognized as one of the greatest threat to human rights violation. It has affected children and women, particularly those areas affected by socio-educational and economically backward areas. Anindita Bhowmik and Sampurna Behura believe that the international community considers trafficking in human beings a contemporary form of slavery.⁶⁴

⁶² Rambir Singh, Supervisor, Census of India (New Delhi, Interview, 19 February 2011).

⁶³ Savita Bhakhry, "Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons," *Combat Law*, 5/3 (2006) 44.

⁶⁴ Anindita Bhowmik and Sampurna Behura, "Liberalised Sex Slavery, Transit Point India," *Combat Law*, 5/3 (2006), 48

Human Rights Law Network based at Delhi reports, “International Organization for Migration estimates that the global trafficking industry generates up to US \$ 8 billion every year. Rough estimates by the UN suggest that 70000 to 2 million persons trafficked across international borders annually are women and children.”⁶⁵ It is violation of human rights that India as nation needs to address the issue.

Young North East girls are targeted by human trafficking agents. Those working in non-organized private sectors, who are paid very little and their jobs are not secured, long for better and permanent jobs. In the search of better job, many girls and boys end up at human trafficking agencies who gave them false promises. Thereafter, the life and challenges of social profiling and racial discrimination move to another level which is a far greater danger than what has been facing so far.

Socio-political unrest has affected education, economic and development in the region. Human traffickers carefully target such affected areas trafficked children with false promise of free education. Educated unemployed girls targeted with false promise of jobs. Tackling challenges of human trafficking will be more serious comparing to racial discrimination and sexual violence.

3.7. Police Accountability

The North East communities are double wounded, first racial discrimination from public and secondly when police intentionally ignored, denied and delay the registration of complaint. First case handled by NESC&H on a girl molested by a neighbor in Mahipalpur on October 21, 2007, the police officer on duty at Vasant Vihar mocked at and harassed the victim. NESC&H reports,

The Duty Officer Mr. Nalka Ram refused to entertain the complaint. After waiting for two and half hour long, under the instruction of Station House Officer of Police Station Mr. Rajesh Kumar endorsed the application by victims and First Information Report (FIR) with appropriate sections of IPC and under SC/ST Atrocity Prevention Act (1995) will be registered.⁶⁶

The incident was reported to national news paper and television, which have brought pressure on police officer to register the case under SC/ST Atrocity Act.⁶⁷ The sexual assault and advances on North East girls were mounting up in 2007 and Delhi police release a booklet called “Tips of Dos and Don’ts for north east communities in Delhi” written by Indian Police Service officer Robin Hibul, which has hurt the sentimental of north east communities. The Hindu reported it.

The Delhi police have given a new twist to the old tale of women’s safety in cities. In their desire to “protect” women especially from northeast India, they have issued a strange booklet. Titled “Security tips for Northeast students/visitors in Delhi”, the

⁶⁵ n.a., *Trafficking and the Law* (New Delhi: HRLN, 2006), 9.

⁶⁶ North East Support Centre & Helpline, “A North East Girl Sexually Assaulted,” <http://nehelpline.net/Report%20Abuses/A%20North%20East%20Girl%20Sexually%20Assaulted%20and%20Beaten%20by%20Man.HTM> (accessed 10 December 2010).

⁶⁷ Rongmei, Interview.

booklet sets out tips that are supposed to help women from northeast India feel safe on the streets of India's capital.⁶⁸

There came the protest from all walk of North East communities on IPS officer Robin Hibul latter, Delhi police had to withdraw the booklet. Rather the booklet and the contents of security tips with dos and don'ts were other form of racial discrimination.

FIR Recorded in NESC&H

Nos of Crimes	FIR		No FIR		Police Action	
	Crimes	Percentage	Crimes	Percentage	Nos	Percentage
96	35	36%	61	64%	11	11%

Table No. 12

Looking at the response of police in dealing the racial discrimination faced by North East communities in Delhi and NCR as reflected in Table No 12, out of 96 cases reported and handled by NESC&H, 36% filed FIR and only 11% cases were taken action by police by arresting the culprits while 64% cases were not filed FIR. Registering cases were difficult as most of the cases were refused, delayed and denied by the police officers on duty. This adds on top of the racial discrimination from general public.

⁶⁸ The Hindu, "Be Safe, Don't Exist,"

<http://www.thehindu.com/mag/2007/07/29/stories/2007072950190300.htm?fromrss=1> (accessed 28 December 2010).

Chapter IV

RESPONSE TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Racial discrimination is purely a reflection of Indian caste system. Easy target on women from North East India is a part of larger challenges of sexual violence against women in general. India Constitution bans racial discrimination.

15. Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.—
(1) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. (2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to—(a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public.⁶⁹

Racial discrimination faced by North East Indian communities in their own national capital city is also violation of constitutional rights that perpetrators could be booked and brought under the law of the land. The government machineries, civil societies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and religious bodies must get involved to fight against these crimes and violation of fundamental and human rights that.

1.0. ROLE OF LAW ENFORCING MECHANISM

Delhi and NCR police have played reactionary preventive mode in dealing with the racial discrimination and sexual violence against women. Enough incidents had happened but failed to take hints. Policy and plan of action taken after following the Dhaula Kuan gangrape case of 30 years girl, working in a BPO company from Mizoram must be monitored round the week, month and year as proactive mode of preventive plan of action. In NDTV's Big Fight debate channel, Kiran Bedi said, "Delhi police failed to develop proactive plan of action to encounter crimes."⁷⁰

NESC&H along with women NGOs made campaign for safety for women in Delhi, made delegation to Delhi Police Commissioner, Delhi Chief Minister and Union Home Ministry with list of demands and suggestions to develop policy and plan of action.⁷¹ Demands include police night patrolling in unsafe areas, setup CCTV cameras, women helpline numbers should be made known to public, install English and Hindi speaking helpline operators in Police control rooms, issue safety guidelines to BPO companies and setup fast track courts for rape cases. Delhi government and police responded by accepting most of demands. Delhi police gave nine points safety guidelines in writer order to all BPO companies in Delhi and NCR on December 9, 2010.

⁶⁹ (Article 15, The Constitution of India).

⁷⁰ Kiran Bedi, "The Big Fight: Making Cities Safe for Women," (Lecture Notes, NDTV, New Delhi, December 2011).

⁷¹ Kangla Online, "A Civil Society Delegation," <http://kanglaonline.com/2010/12/a-civil-society-delegation-met-delhi-cm-delhi-police-child-women-welfare-ministry-and-state-women-commission/> (accessed 28 February 2011).

... BALWANT SINGH Asstt. Commissioner of Police... make this written order that all such organizations like BPOs, Corporate & and Media Houses... Delhi shall:- a) Maintain a data base of all employees, security personnel, cab drivers and contractual workers working with them, for access by the police as and when required. b) Hire the security personnel and other contractual personnel as far as possible from licensed agencies only. c) Ensure verification of antecedents of all their employees including contractual employees. d) Ensure that women employees are not made to travel alone with the cab driver during the night and a duly verified security guard is invariably deployed in each cab carrying women staff. e) Choose the route in such manner that as far as possible a women employees is not the first one to be picked up or the last to be dropped. f) Ensure that the cab involved in transportation of women employees drops such employees right at their houses, remains halted at the point where a women employee has been dropped till she confirms about her arrival/reaching at her residence/place of stay through a telephone call. g) Ensure that, whenever the house of a woman employee is so located that the approach road is not motorable, the duly verified security guard accompanies the employee on foot upto her house and takes a confirmation about her safe arrival. h) Exercise effective check and control on the vehicle's movement in order to check any unwarranted activities of the cab drivers, such as picking up strangers, straying away from the designated route etc. i) Get GPS system installed in the cabs used in the transportation of employees, especially of women employees.⁷²

Implementation of these plans of action as proactive preventive measurement must be carried out round the year, not relaxing until next crime happens. NESC&H has taken up the challenges faced by North East communities in Delhi with Delhi Commissioner of Police. A zero tolerance in dealing the cases faced by North East particularly women to Delhi police stations. Delhi police need to provide unbiased duty bound service to North East communities. Women cells are installed in most of the police stations after Dhaula Kuan gangrape case.

2.0. ROLE OF NORTH EAST INDIAN CHURCHES/COMMUNITIES

Large section of North East Indian states are Christians and migrants from these communities have their own state-wise and linguistic churches in Delhi and NCR. These churches are mostly focus on their Sunday worship services, which are mostly conducted in rented places, Christian schools and mainline churches like Church premises. Most of the victims of racial attack and sexual violence are members of these churches and they have not responded as church to tackle these challenges.

Having come from far places and living in different city with vast different social cultural setup, North Eastern churches in Delhi have lion share in catering care and counseling to victims. Unfortunately, churches are biased by keeping silent so far. When attack happens to other communities, the rest does not bother. Perpetrators do not differential the differences of North Eastern states, tribes and religions. They level all of North East communities as one, but the ways North Easterners respond, they are divided by responding when it happens to their own tribes otherwise keep quiet and so will do the same by other tribes as well.

Churches may not be equipped to handle these kinds of crime. Professionally trained and experience dedicated personalities can handle, but churches can render safety guidelines and awareness to their own communities. Social culture integration with mainline society is very much needed. Perhaps it might reduce racial attack and sexual violence against by men and women from North East India. Meenakshi Lekha, a Supreme Court lawyer in a NDTV

⁷² Delhi Police, "Order," <http://delhipolice.nic.in/home/backup/dec2010.htm> (accessed 28 February 2011).

Moqubala panel discussion on safety for women in Delhi held on December 4 December 2010 says, “To reduce social profiling, there must be cultural integration among North East communities along with mainline Indian societies.”⁷³ Churches will have role to play in bringing importance and awareness about socio-cultural integration among North East communities and mainline Indian societies.

NESC&H is an initiative of All India Christian Council and financially supported by Operation Mobilization India. It is a Christian response to plights faced by North Easterners. National Churches Council of India has conducted a seminar on February 22, 2011 to address the issue of North East India migration and challenges to seek participation from North East Indian churches.

3.0. ROLE OF NORTH EAST POLITICAL LEADERS

Political leaders, particularly North East Member of Parliament (MP) Forum has important role in bringing the issues and challenges faced by North East communities in Delhi. NESC&H has many a time appealed to forum to take up the matter with Union and Delhi governments; unfortunately they have not taken any serious step. NESC&H delegation met some of North East MPs, appealing forum to take the matter in 2010 Parliament Session. North East MP forums met on 7th December 2010 and resolved to take up the matter during winter session of parliament.⁷⁴ Unfortunately parliament session suspended due to boycott by Opposition parties.

North East political leaders need to look into the push factors for migrations. Education being the major push factor, political leaders must negotiate with Union Government to invest more to develop educational infrastructure with more choice of education in the region. Other push factors – poverty, economic backwardness and socio-political unrest in region for last 60 years must look into permanent and long lasting solution.

There must bring laws, policies and plan of actions to address the challenges of human trafficking that the region has started facing this challenge. This challenge will be more serious than racial discrimination and sexual violence because earlier is carried out by organized criminal gangs and latter committed mostly by first time criminal offenders. HGS Dhaliwal, Deputy Commissioner Police of South Delhi in NDTC Panel discussion on safety for women in Delhi said, “Sexual offenders are mostly first time offenders.”⁷⁵ Sooner than later, every state in North East India must enact law, policy and plan of action to encounter the challenges of human trafficking. Manipur Government have already enacted anti-human trafficking cell under police Department.

The state government has taken up steps to set up anti-trafficking police units to check the rise in trafficking of children outside Manipur on the pretext of free education. It had initiated steps to set up anti-human trafficking cells in Churachandpur, Senapati, Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal and Bishnupur which had seen the largest number of child trafficking.⁷⁶

⁷³ Meenakshi Lekha, “Moqubala: Is Delhi Safe for Women,” (Lecture Notes, NDTV, December 2010).

⁷⁴ Sanjay Takam, Member of Parliament, Government of India (New Delhi, Interview, 7 December 2010).

⁷⁵ HGS Dhaliwal, “Moqubala: Is Delhi Safe for Women,” (Lecture Notes, NDTV, New Delhi, December 2010).

⁷⁶ Hueiyen Lanpao, “Trafficked Girl Kept Confined,” <http://www.hueiyenlanpao.com/news.php?newsid=5309> (accessed 1 March 2011).

Other North Eastern states also need to come up with action plan to setup anti-trafficking cell. NESC&H earlier appealed Nagaland government, “NESC&H has appealed to Nagaland and Manipur governments to adopt law, policy and plan of action with regard to human trafficking.”⁷⁷

⁷⁷ The Nagaland Post, “Minor Girl Raped, Rescued,”
<http://www.nagalandpost.com/ShowStory.aspx?npoststoryiden= UzEwMzczMTc%3D-vWDK5uqYXug%3D>
(accessed 1 March 2011).

Chapter V RECOMMENDATION AND PROPOSAL

Migration is not the problem but push factors and challenges faced in mega cities particularly in Delhi and NCR is a matter that this study addresses and highlights the recommendations to address the challenges. As stated earlier that racial discrimination is reflection of 3000 years old caste system of Indian society. The racial discrimination based on caste apartheid is faced by various sections of Indian society. It is not just by the North East Indian communities. As long as the caste strong holds remain within Indian societies, there will be racial discrimination to all sections of society including North East Indian communities. However, attempt could be made to prevent and reduce the discrimination faced by various section of Indian society. The North East India communities proved to be one among many that face high amount of racial discrimination in Delhi and NCR, which demands recommendation for solution to the problem addressed in this study. The followings are some of the recommendations and proposal to fight the racial discrimination face by north east communities.

1.0. INVESTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

North East Indian states need specific investment to develop educational infrastructure from Union government. State governments in the region must prioritize it. Lack of educational infrastructure with limited choice of studies being the major push factor, identified in this study, has been one of the least invested by state as well as Union governments. The 2011-12 budget presented by Union Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee on February 28, 2011 did not show any specific fund to develop educational infrastructure for the region, which means the challenges will remained unaddressed. “The allocation for the development of the northeast region has been doubled to Rs 8,000 crore (Rs 80 billion/\$1.7 billion), Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee announced on Monday while presenting the budget for fiscal for 2011-12.”⁷⁸

Over 275,250 (66.35%) populations out of total 414,850 migrants migrated to other cities in last six years for higher education. An average cost of each students studying outside of Manipur is about Rs 5000 per month. For 275,250 students @ Rs 5000 per month will cost nearly Rs 1600 crore annually, which is one fifth of Pranab Mukherjee’s acclaimed double increased budget for 2011-12. Parents back home manage to send these amounts by first week of every month.

Union Government along with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, North East Council and state governments must seek to invest more to develop most lacking educational sector in the region. Vanlalchhawna writes on Central government’s role in developing educational in the region, “Central government plays a crucial role in the development of higher education in the North East.”⁷⁹ Indian government’s “LOOK EAST” policy is

⁷⁸ The Economic Times, “Union Budget 2011: Allocation for North East Doubled to 8000 Cr,” <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/union-budget-2011-allocation-for-northeast-doubled-to-rs-8000-cr/articleshow/7595864.cms> (accessed 1 March 2011).

⁷⁹ Vanlalchhawna, *Higher Education in North-East India* (New Delhi: Mittal Publication, 2006), 82.

believed to bring economic revolution through current collaboration with ASEAN. This dream will remain challenge because of the existing 30 militant groups, who became major hindrance to development in the region. Private sector investment is almost zero and it could be due to the issue of mushrooming militancy in the region.

Addressing socio-political crisis in the region existed over the period of 60 years, will be crucial for Union government. Union government of India during late Mrs. Indira Gandhi, then the prime minister solved Mizo insurgency in 1985; perhaps, it could be a best model for Union government to address the socio-political unrest in the region. An honest approach from Union government of India is the need of hour to bring normal life in the region and make channel for youngsters to mainstream. Once socio-political unrest is addressed and solved, whole region will boom economically with natural resources and international trade potential.

2.0. POLITICAL WILL

The racial discrimination and sexual violence faced by men and women from North East India have been highlighted for quite a long period, yet no sign of political will is shown so far. Until and unless the political will comes forward, the struggle to prevent and reduce racial discrimination and sexual violence will remain unresolved.

2.1. Union and Delhi Government

Response from Union and Delhi government in addressing the challenges of racial discrimination and sexual violence faced by men and women from North East India should have been much earlier and waited for long time until issue became very serious. Currently, Delhi police has taken up steps to prevent sexual violence against women, instructed BPO private companies to follow safety guidelines, women cell created and women helpline setup. Yet, sexual violence and racial attack on North Easterners continue. Union Government must take notes of the plights faced by people from North East India and come up with laws, policies and plan of action along with Delhi government and law enforcing agencies. Hostel for North East students and working women could be one among many steps that Delhi and Union government can initiate. This may reduce crime against women from North East India, who had to live in cheaper rented homes in the colonies listed as unsafe for North East women.

2.2. North Eastern Political Leaders

The political leaders of North East India have been appealed repeatedly to come forward to address the problems faced by their communities in national capital and surround regions, yet no political leaders have so far come forward, expect the time when the issues happened to the communities from their own states. North East MP forum will be right platform to bring the issues and challenges with higher authorities of Delhi government, Central Government and surrounding state governments.

The ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (Doner) ministry must look into welfare of North East communities in Delhi and NCR. NESC&H has made repeated appeals to take up the issue with counterpart concerned governments. The ministry will need to come up with more people friendly project for North East

communities living in Delhi. Back at home, each state government will require suitable law, policy and plan of action to stop human trafficking from the region. Currently setting up anti-trafficking cell in some of the state is good sign and all other states will also need to setup sooner than later.

3.0. PARTICIPATION FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Education in North East India is survived because of civil society organizations, which run private educational institutions. They need to continue their role in educational sectors. Mostly they give primary and high school education. More professional and technical higher education must also include in their educational services to the region.

4.0. SENSITISATION

Sensitising the racial discrimination faced by North East communities in Delhi and NCR is one recommendation and proposal in seeking to prevent and reduce the problem. The sensitising has to be carried out in various levels and platforms.

4.1. Sensitizing North East Communities

Before dealing the issue outside, the home work with its own communities is considered importance.⁸⁰ NESC&H carried out the sensitisation programs in various student groups and community gatherings, where the basic information of civil rights and legal remedies was shared.⁸¹

The sensitisation seminar helped the North East Indian communities on the issues of civil rights and legal remedies and legal proceedings whenever their communities face any racial discrimination. To tackle and attempt preventing the issue, more sensitisation seminars are required, in which the safety measurement on the parts of North East communities can be uttered in practical ways.

Sensitising the community leaders to take responsible whenever their community members face any racial discrimination is another need in tackling the issue. In the capital like Delhi and NCR, most of the youngsters who face discrimination find extreme difficulties without the assistance from their community elders.

There is a need to sort out in own vineyard while tackling the issue of racial discrimination. There is a huge cultural gap of which majority of the people from Delhi often claim it as main causes for the incidents happened so far. Although this allegation can not be justified for the crimes committed against the North Easterners, yet there is some true that need to check out first. The concern of checking the culture of dress, food habit and social life which contradict to the society in Delhi and surround cities is the issue that the North Easterners need to consider checking.

The free culture of North Easterners, which guarantees the mixture of social life with opposite sex, is very much contradictory to local culture and often that led

⁸⁰ Rongmei, Interview.

⁸¹ North East Support Centre & Helpline conducted sensitisation seminars for students in Gurgaon, Zalianrong Communities, Hmar Communities, Vaiphei Communities Paite Communities and Parents Awareness Camps in Manipur in 2008 and 2009.

misconception of the immoral life. There has to be sensitized that the living style should not be the same as it is lived out in home states. The free life style some time treated as polluting to local culture and society. Cultural integration by adopting local church is crucial part from North Easterners in national capital.

4.2. Sensitizing the Police Official

North East communities in Delhi and NCR face double discrimination from police official on duty when they deny, delay and ignore the complaints on the racial discrimination and sexual violence against their members. Unbiased and equality before the law must be enforced by law enforcing agents.

NESC&H has built up good relationship, by offering hands to work together to stop racial discrimination and sexual violence against women from North East region. More linkage with police officers required in future.

4.3. Sensitizing the Civil Society

Until the culprits are confronted through the legal proceeding, they kept committing crimes against North East communities. The cases taken up by the police and published by the media has brought lots of sensitisation to general public that there is a consequence of committing crimes.

To sensitise more to the public, there is a need of registering each crimes under national crime record and follow the legal proceeding to punish the culprits. This often brings tremendous sensitisation to the general public that there are punishments for committing crimes.

5.0. MEDIA ADVOCACY

The success story of NESC&H in handling the cases of racial discrimination and sexual violence faced by North East communities must go to fellow media persons of the national capital, without their helps, the plights, could have been underneath.

The print, news broadcasting television channels and electronic media has taken the voice of the plights faced by the communities. CNN IBN's reporter Geetika Pokriyal carried the inaugural function of NESC&H on its national channel, which brought lots of sensitisation all over the country.⁸² To bring the issue more in day light of the racial discrimination face by North East communities in Delhi and NCR would only be possible with lobbying with more media channel and personnel. Ambika Hongsha said in an interview by Canadian Radio Broadcasting, "Media stood from the time we begun our helpline and in future we can tackle the issue only through the help of media."⁸³

Media has done well in taking up the issues and plights of North East communities living in Delhi and NCR but the happenings in the region has not been done up to the mark. Sixty years of socio-political unrest, lack of educational infrastructure and economic development

⁸² IBN Live, "Racially Discriminated People from North East Starts Helpline," <http://ibnlive.in.com/videos/50947/racially-discriminated-people-from-ne-start-helpline.html> (accessed 25 Decmber 2011)

⁸³ Hongsha, Interview.

issues are not covered in national highlights. Media might need to take more interest and initiative in bring the issue to national limelight.

CONCLUSION

Migration to other cities of India is not the issue but trends of push factors. Lack of educational infrastructure with limited choice of studies is most affected by socio-political crisis. Serious steps taken to invest and develop educational infrastructure with more professional studies, otherwise the trend will continue. Next trend is the lack of employment opportunities in the region. The trend of only 5% out of all those who migrates to other cities of India, returning back to region is great concern. Own people returning back to home states after gaining professional academic and skill training will help in bringing development project in the region. This will remain challenged without employment opportunities.

Migration for the purpose of education is also connected to out flux of fund, which affect economic condition of the region. There will be more challenges in future tackling the issue of out flux of fund, which will not be stop until the number of migration reduce, which will not be possible without major investment to develop educational infrastructure. Challenge is both in the house and out as the migrants faces huge challenges in mega cities of India, particularly national capital city Delhi. Racial attacks and discrimination meted out to North East people in Delhi and NCR while women face sexual violence in their colonies, market places, work places, colleges, buses, trains and universities.

The racial discrimination in India is a real and faced by various communities. It is the outcome consequences of root causes of all injustice India, the caste system on which Indian societies run and controlled. The racial discrimination faced by North Eastern communities is real, of which majority of Indian remains silence spectators. The issue of racial discrimination is tackled at very small scale by NESC&H, the issue remains unresolved, for which political will and public sensitisation is required to bring up the matter with the concern authorities to stop and prevent. For which, media sympathy and involvement to take up the matter with decision making authorities is crucial. Once the racial discrimination and ill-treatment as strangers and cheap people in their own land is prevented or minimized, then come there the beauty of unity in diversity – the true color and beauty of India.

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Appendix # 1

A study on student out-flux & influx from North East India to other cities in India and abroad and its probable causes.

<http://necareerguidance.blogspot.com/2010/03/study-on-student-out-flux-influx-from.html>

Saturday, March 13, 2010

The scope for unrestricted movement of people across regions and nations has widened in the truly globalized world. As a result, highly skilled workers from our Region are now migrating to the developed cities & countries in search of better opportunities.

As per reports by analysts, students from North East India migrate to other parts of the country and rest of the world in large numbers for higher education and job opportunities. It has been witnessed that a few Indian states attract students from other states at secondary level. It is been also seen that the states which attract large volume of students at secondary level have better educational infrastructure especially for streams like Engineering & Medical education, Administration and to name a few, other professional courses like Finance, IT, Hotel Management, Mass communication etc. It is mainly due to higher number of seats as well as larger number of institutions available in these states and at the same time employment opportunities and ample job prospects. At the very first look there seems to be a direct connection between number of students migrating to other states and the educational infrastructure in those places.

If you look at the trend analysis on North East Indian students going abroad for Higher Studies and job opportunities (2005-2009), it shows increasing trend till about 2007, but decreasing trend since 2008. That could be due to various reasons. But surely if in near future the educational infrastructure and facilities not improved and new ways of learning, new technologies not introduced, out-flux of students and talents would still continue, may be will not increase further but the continue the same trend.

Trend Analysis (2005-2009)

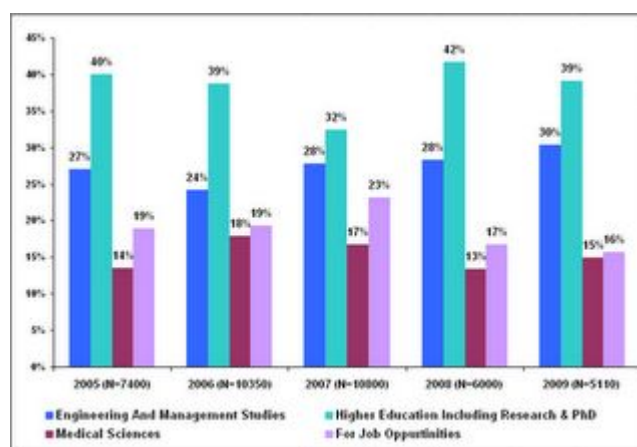


Fig.: North East Indian Students Going Abroad For Higher Studies and Job Opportunities (2005-2009)

On the other hand as per analysts, students from North East going to large cities in India for Higher Studies & job opportunities during 2005-2009, it shows maximum volume is in the Graduation level and for job opportunities. However, for higher education, percentage remains still low. It could be that we are not either opting for further higher education or facilities not available, where there is absolute need for further higher studies as survey shows that college degrees no longer command authority in the job industry and are now needed to go further to professional, Master's and PhD level.

Trend Analysis (2005-2009)

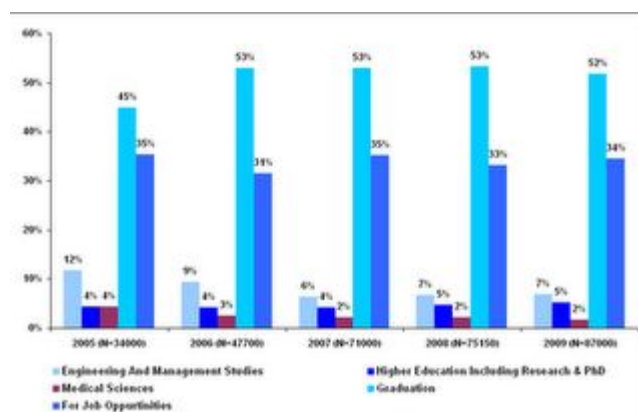


Fig.: Students form North East going to large cities in India for Higher Studies & Job Opportunities during 2005-2009

A very interesting aspect to see that there is a rising trend of people (from NE) returning back to India from abroad after Education due to increasing job potential and growth India has witnessed. And India is still expected to grow further.

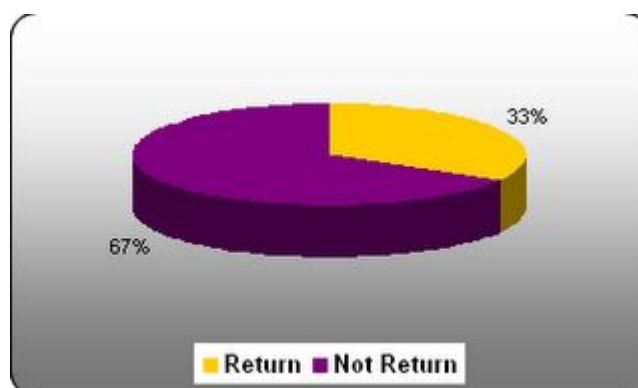


Fig.: North-East Indians returning back to India from Abroad after Education

But if we look at students from NE Region returning back to home turf after Education Abroad and other cities, it shows very negligible percentage. This could be due to various reasons, but at the very first glance it seems mainly due to career opportunities available and job prospects in the Region. The entire NE region is yet to come to that level that students gets attracted to return back.

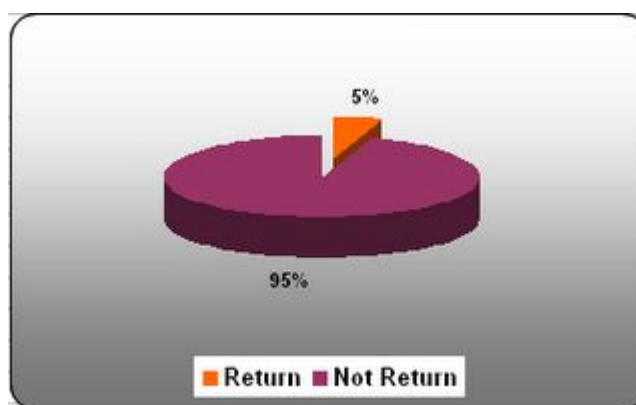


Fig.: North-East students returning back to North-East India after Education Abroad/other cities.

Key Notes:

1. During this period (05-09), maximum number of students had gone abroad for Research & PhD, which is regarded as the most promising talent pool.
2. But, the trend says that the number of students going abroad from NE region has decreased considerably as the opportunities in large cities in India are attracting the new generation more.
3. Australia, New Zealand, South East Asian countries still remain a preferred destination for NE students for higher education.
4. Private colleges in big cities in India are attracting more students from this region.
5. Professional courses like Journalism & Mass Communication, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Law etc. offered by these private colleges attract more students.
6. According to Govt. data, 20000 Indians returned to India in 2009 after losing jobs abroad.

Overall, employment and job opportunities are some of the basic reasons for migration.

Now, if we look at just one aspect of North East, is the volume of population in our rural areas, where we have our maximum population. If we go deeper, do we see enough employment opportunities in these areas? Yes we have extensive agricultural and natural

resources. But in absence of new ways doing things, new technologies our young generation is not really motivated. If one can suggest, one of the possible rural Employment Generation could be through vocational education.

Vocational education consists basically of practical courses through which one gains skills and experience directly linked to a career in future. It helps students to be skilled and in turn, offers better employment opportunities. These trainings are parallel to the other conventional courses of study (like B.Sc., M.Sc. etc.).

The Vocational Training in India is imparted by mainly two types of bodies:

Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)

Industrial Training Centers (ITCs)

So now let's look at the total number and capacity of ITIs and ITCs per million persons in India for some of the states. It is very interesting to see that states like Kerala, Tamilnadu, Himachal, Goa and Karnataka has very good numbers in terms of number of Institutes and capacity.

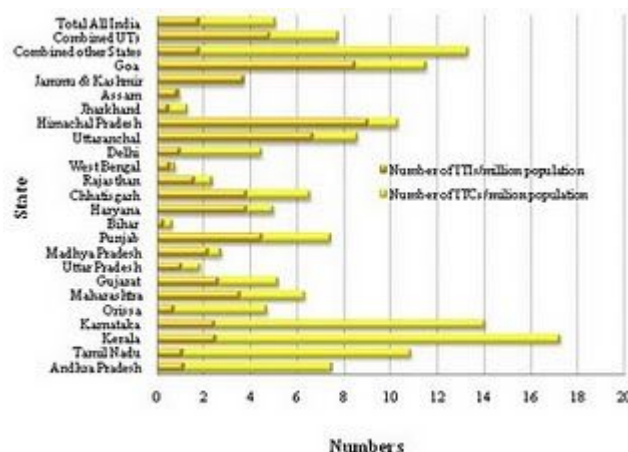


Fig.: Number of ITIs and ITCs available per million persons in different states in India

Source: The vocational education and training system report no.-22 World Bank.

If we look at our capacity to impart such courses, we stand far behind compared to other places.

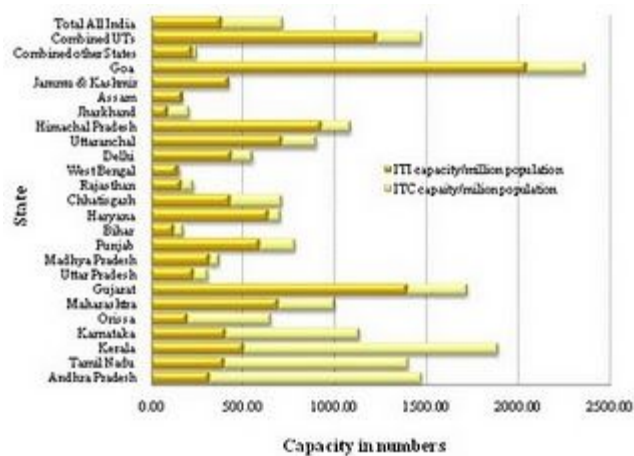


Fig: Intake capacity of ITIs and ITCs per million persons in different states in India
Source: The vocational education and training system report no.-22 World Bank.

So it is quite visible that we in the NE Region are far behind in these areas, which can help generating talents and increase career prospects.

Key Notes:

1. If we have to create employment opportunities in the Region especially for the rural areas, further industrialization is needed and that will demand for skilled manpower and which can be fulfilled through imparting more vocational courses and trainings.
2. On the other hand industrialization can also automatically happen through people enhancing their skill through vocational courses etc. and enroll into different government programs or set-up own small scale industries and grow further.
3. This can generate entrepreneurs in different areas and help the whole Region develop & progress.

Compiled by – Prashant Barooah of NE Career Guidance (www.necareerguidance.com)

Appendix # 1

North East Migrants and Challenges in National Capital Regions

A Research Questionnaire for a partial fulfilment of Doctorate of Ministries (D. Min.) under South Asia Institute of Advance Christian Studies (SAIACS), Bangalore.

Rev. Madhu Chandra, Spokesperson of North East Support Centre & Helpline is undertaking this pilot research as part of D. Min. studies in interest of North East Communities' welfare in Delhi and National Capital Regions. You are requested to help him by answering the following questionnaires. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated. Your personal details will be kept confidential otherwise with your prior permission only. Please fill up the gaps and tick [✓] wherever indicated.

Personal Details:

- 1.1. Your Name: (option)_____ Gender [] Female [] Male Age: ____
- 1.2. Home State: _____ District: _____
- 1.3. What is your social background? [] Upper Caste [] OBC [] SC [] ST [] Minorities
- 1.4. What tribe or ethnic community do you belong? _____.
- 1.5. What is your religious?
[] Hindu [] Muslim [] Christian [] Buddhist [] Others _____
- 1.6. Is your religion by [] Birth or [] Conversion?
- 1.7. Do you attend Religious Gathering? [] Yes [] No
If "YES" which one? [] Temple [] Mosque [] Church [] Others

If "YES" how often? [] Weekly [] Monthly [] Yearly [] Occasionally
- 1.8. Are you [] married [] Single [] Divorced?
- 1.9. How many family members? _____.
- 1.10. How many of your family members are living in Delhi/NCR?

Educational Qualification:

- 2.1. What is your qualification?
[] Below Class Ten [] Ten [] Ten Plus Two [] Graduate [] Post Graduate [] Ph. D.
- 2.2. What is field of your education? _____.
- 2.3. Where did you do your Education? [] Home State [] Delhi [] Other States _____
- 2.4. How many of your family members are studying in Delhi? _____.
- 2.5. Who supports your study? _____.

Families' Economic Status:

- 3.1. How many family members are employed? _____.
- 3.2. What is your family monthly income?
[] Below 2000 [] 2001-5000 [] 5001-10000 [] 10001-15000

[] 15001-20000 [] 20001-25000 [] Above 25000.
- 3.3. Do you have own house in your home state? [] Yes [] No.
If yes, what type of your house? [] Thatch house [] Wooden house [] RC house
- 3.4. Do you cultivation land in your home state? [] Yes [] No.
If "Yes" how big? [] less than 1 acre [] 1-2 acres [] 3-4 acres [] more than 4 acres
- 3.5. What do you use for cooking in your home state?
[] LGP [] Firewood [] Bio-Gas [] K oil

Opinion about your Home State?

- 4.1. How is the socio-political situation of your home state? Please Rate.
[] Very Good [] Good [] Bad [] Very Bad
- 4.2. Was the socio-political condition of your home state a factor in your decision to come to Delhi/NCR? [] Yes [] No.
- 4.3. How is the educational situation of your state?
[] Very Good [] Good [] Bad [] Very Bad

Was it the factor of your coming to Delhi? [] Yes [] No
- 4.4. How is the economical situation of your state?
[] Very Good [] Good [] Bad [] Very Bad

Was it the factor of your coming to Delhi? [] Yes [] No
- 4.5. How is the employment situation of your state?
[] Very Good [] Good [] Bad [] Very Bad

Was it the factor of your coming to Delhi? [] Yes [] No

Profession:

- 5.1. What is your Profession?
☐ Student ☐ Govt. Employee ☐ Private Company ☐ Sales Assistant ☐ Business
- If, “Employed”, how long are you employed? ☐ 1–2 yrs ☐ 3-5 yrs ☐ More than 5 yrs
- 5.2. If “Employed” What is the nature of your job? _____
- 5.3. If “Employed” What is your designation in your job? _____
- 5.4. What is your annual salary?
☐ 5000-10000 ☐ 10000-15000 ☐ 15000-20000 ☐ 20000-30000
☐ 30000-40000 ☐ 40000-50000 ☐ 50000-60000 ☐ 60000-75000

Life in Delhi/NCR:

- 6.1. How long have you been living in Delhi/NCR? _____ or ☐ Born in Delhi/NCR
- 6.2. Are you the first member of your family, who came to Delhi? ☐ Yes ☐ No.
 If “NO”, who came first to Delhi from your family?
☐ Parents ☐ Brothers/Sisters ☐ Cousins ☐ Uncle/Aunty
- 6.3. Where do you live in Delhi/NCR? _____
- 6.4. Is your house ☐ Owned ☐ Rented ☐ Govt Quarter ☐ Hostel ☐ Paying Guest House?
- 6.5. Do you have vehicle in Delhi? ☐ Yes ☐ No.
 If “YES” what type of vehicle?
☐ Two wheelers ☐ Car ☐ Jeep ☐ Other _____
- If “NO” What is mode of your transportation? ☐ Bus ☐ Metro/Train ☐ Your vehicle
- 6.6. Do you have ☐ AC ☐ Air Cooler in your home?
- 6.7. What was reason for you to come to Delhi?
☐ Study ☐ Employment ☐ Deputation ☐ Any other _____
- 6.8. Was it your choice to come to Delhi? ☐ Yes ☐ No.
- 6.9. Why did you choose Delhi? _____

Opinion on Racial/Gender-Based Discrimination Faced by People from North East India in Delhi/NCR:

- 7.1. Do you face any Sexual Abuse? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If “Yes” in what ways?

☐ Physical Assault ☐ Abusive Remark ☐ Vulgar Remarks ☐ Rape
 If “Yes” where?

☐ Market ☐ Home ☐ Colony ☐ Work Place ☐ College/Schools ☐ Metro ☐ Bus
 If “Yes” any local came to help you? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 7.2. Do you face physical attack for being from North East India? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If “Yes” in what ways?

☐ Physical Attack ☐ Abusive Remark ☐
 If “Yes” how seriously injured?

☐ Bleeding ☐ Fracture ☐ Swollen ☐ No injured
 If “Yes” where?

☐ Market ☐ Home ☐ Colony ☐ Work Place ☐ College/Schools ☐ Metro ☐ Bus
 If “Yes” any local came to help you? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 7.3. Whom did you report police when you are physically attacked or sexually assaulted?
☐ Police Helpline ☐ Police Station ☐ Departmental Head ☐ Student Body ☐ Friends
 In case of police, did your FIR registered? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 7.4. If FIR registered, is your case convicted in court? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Pending
- 7.5. What could be reason targeting North East People in Delhi and NCR?
☐ Different Look ☐ Different Culture ☐ Social Profiling ☐ Outsider
- 7.6. Are you satisfied with steps taken by Delhi Government and Delhi Police to stop attack on North East People in Delhi and NCR? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 7.7. Where do you get help from when you are attacked?
☐ Police ☐ Friends ☐ Local people ☐ Student Body ☐ Your Community Society

- 7.8. What can be done to stop attack on North East people, particularly women? Please suggest policy, law and plan of action.

Thank you very much.

Submit to

Rev. Madhu Chandra
Spokesperson
North East Support Centre & Helpline
RZ 61, 4th Floor, Palam Vihar
Dwarka, Sector 6
New Delhi 110075
+91-9716004939